

## Royalty nominations approaching

Organizations have until 5 p.m., Friday, to submit nominations for the 2008 Homecoming Royalty. Each candidate must have a 2.7 grade point average. Organizations can submit their nominee by e-mailing [homecmg@nwmissouri.edu](mailto:homecmg@nwmissouri.edu) or turning them into the Campus Activities Office.

## Federal grant income surveys due Friday

Conception Abbey and the Nodaway County Health Department are seeking \$600,000 worth of federal grants to upgrade their facilities. The State of Missouri requires an income survey be sent to households throughout the county to determine if Nodaway County meets economic requirements for the grants. Surveys were mailed out this week and need to be returned by Friday. Potential grant funds plan to be allocated to repairs needed for the John F. Kennedy building on the campus of Conception Abbey. The Nodaway County Health Department also seeks funds to relocate to an upgraded, handicap-accessible facility.

## THURSDAY

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# CONVERGING CAMPUS & COMMUNITY NWMISSOURIAN

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## POLK TOWNSHIP

## Re-zoning standoff continues

By Sean Comer  
Political Reporter

A tense tone at Tuesday's Polk Township zoning commission meeting might've pointed toward settling an eight-month stand-off in a courtroom.

The commission voted unanimously to grant Lifetime Packaging entrepreneur Diane Higdon's request to re-zone an 8.8-acre M-1 agricultural tract on South Mulberry Street as an C-2 commercial zone. Maryville developer Bill Ingeles, who has protested granting a re-zoning under Polk Township zoning regulations that lack specific building standards, focused Tuesday's testimony on the lot lacking the public right-of-way access required for re-zoning by Township regulations.

Zoning officer Gary Graves read a letter from Polk Township attorney Scott Ross stating that the tract does have access to a public street via a series of previous easements.

O'Riley Brothers Construction Co. — neighbors in 1975 to the south of the tract Higdon now owns — granted

See ALARM on A7

## COMMUNITY NEWS

## Public Safety encourages smoke alarm awareness

By Erin Loges  
Missourian Reporter

Every year, smoke alarms save lives in homes around the world by alerting residents to fires.

Having a smoke detector in every room is important, but making sure they all have charged batteries is also vital.

Maryville Public Safety is continuously trying to raise awareness of the importance to have working smoke detectors. They step up efforts every spring and fall with the time change, fire Lt. Phil Rickabaugh said.

"We concentrate more on the fall when we switch the clocks back, but spring is important in case someone missed it in the fall," Rickabaugh said.

Public Safety officials are willing to help residents set up their houses with smoke detectors.

"If they contact us, we'll change the batteries or put smoke alarms up for them," Rickabaugh said.

See ALARM on A7

## 1917-2008



PRESIDENT ROBERT FOSTER relaxes in his office. He maintained an open-door policy, and students were welcome to stop in anytime. THE BELL TOWER was rededicated on Dec. 5, 2004, at a ceremony honoring former President Robert Foster (with wife Virginia) and Everett Brown, who was assistant to the president during the time the tower was envisioned and built.

## Former president gave campus new identity

By Lindsay Jacobs and Evan Young  
University News Editor and Managing Editor

He cheered, watching from his wheelchair, as the Bearcats headed toward Homecoming victory in fall 2005.

Two years later, calling from the confines of his hospital room, he suggested the University reach out to alumni to fund the replanting of trees lost during December's ice storm.

Three decades after retiring, former Northwest President Robert Foster remained loyal to the institution he led for 13 years.

Foster, 90, died Monday at his home in Kansas City.

Born in Warrensburg, Mo., Foster first tried his hand at education as a teacher, coach and principal during the late 1930s and early '40s in Carrollton, Mo. However, work on his master's degree in education from the University of Missouri-Columbia halted when he left to join the U.S. Navy during World War II in 1941. He finished his degree in 1951 and later earned a doctorate in 1960.

Foster married Virginia Mutz in 1943, and they had two sons. Together they owned the E.L. Townsend Grocery Co. in Maryville until Foster became Northwest's registrar in 1948. Eleven years later, he was named the dean of administration before becoming the University's seventh president in 1964.

The campus expanded significantly during Foster's administration — partly because of his success in securing nearly \$15 million in capital improvement funds.

Buildings that continue to serve the institution, such as the Garrett-Strong Science Building, the Olive DeLuce Fine Arts Building and the four high-rise freshman residence halls, were built during Foster's presidency.

Additional campus renovations, the establishment of public radio station KXCV/KNRW and the 1972 renaming of Northwest as "State University" also highlight Foster's tenure.

Part of the reason for Foster's long list of accomplishments was his own initiative.

"He was dynamic ... he knew what he wanted done, he



PRESIDENT ROBERT FOSTER and his wife, Virginia, sign the guest book at the dedication of Garrett-Strong Science Building in 1968.



expected you to get it done, if you got it done he was very liberal with his praise," said former Public Relations Officer Bob Henry, whom Foster hired in 1969. "If things went bad he was forgiving, but he still wanted things done — and done his way."

"He did everything he could do to advance the goals of the University."

One of those goals was to construct a bell tower on campus to honor students, faculty and others who served their country in the military.

When Foster unveiled plans in 1965, however, he got mixed reactions. Considered a campus treasure today, what became the Memorial Bell Tower was once brushed aside by critics as a waste of money, former Admissions Director Bob Bush said.

See FOSTER on A5

## STUDENT ACTIVITIES

## Hypnotist to give encore

By Micheal Clements  
Chief Reporter

For 15 years, Jim Wand has hypnotized Northwest students.

Students once again will have the chance to get hypnotized when Wand performs at Northwest at 10 p.m., Thursday, March 20, in the Charles Johnson Theater.

Wand, who has been hypnotizing for 20 years is being brought back by the Students Activities Council.

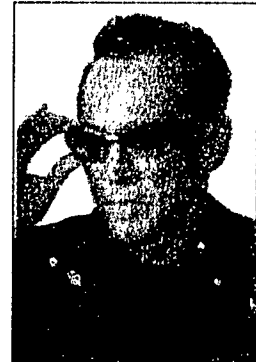
"The people are so easy to work with in activities, there is such a good reception among the students and also the community," Wand said.

Wand has performed at Northwest, Kawasaki, Energizer and St. Francis Hospital and looks forward to coming to Northwest every year.

Wand is a cooperative and easy act to bring in for SAC, Late Night Chair Chelsea Sogard said.

"Students really enjoy him; they keep wanting him back so we keep bringing him back," Sogard said. "I think he changes it up each time, it's an interactive program and students really enjoy that and it's very, very funny."

See HYPNOTIST on A3



Jim Wand  
Hypnotist

## PLOGHOFT LECTURE

## Levin focuses on academics

By Lisa Houtchens  
Chief Reporter

A lecturer who challenges students to raise expectations for their achievement will speak on campus next week.

Every year Northwest has a fall and spring Ploghoft Lecture; this spring's lecture will focus on students who are struggling academically.

Fulbright Scholar Reulan Levin, a professor at Avila University in Kansas City will give the spring lecture at 7 p.m. Monday at the Charles Johnson Theater.

Milton and Zella Ploghoft started the series four years ago to build cross-cultural understanding in students, College of Education and Human Resources Dean Max Ruhl said.

The series chooses lecturers that are not only culturally different but also diversely different, Ruhl said.

Northwest chose Levin to speak because of her experience with education. She has been involved with Upward Bound programs in urban centers and many other educational areas for about 30 years, Ruhl said.

"Closing the gap, achieving high performance from America's youth" is the title of Levin's lecture.

The last four years Levin has been involved with the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and the Project Close the Gap. She is also a consultant for the National Urban Alliance for Effective Education, Levin said.

See PLOGHOFT on A2



Reulan Levin  
Ploghoft lecturer

## THEN AND NOW

## Local bars originally played different roles in downtown Maryville

By Micheal Clements  
Chief Reporter

They paved paradise, they put up a parking lot, but several Maryville historical buildings still stand as today's drinking establishments.

Buildings that house Maryville's bars played a larger role in the community before they were watering holes, serving as a newspaper, bottling company and a power generating plant to name a few.

The downtown area, once home to many local businesses, evolved over time away from the shopping center of Maryville, Nodaway County Historical Society Treasurer Tom Carneal said.

At one time, hard liquor couldn't be served in Maryville, until a state law passed stating hotel owners could serve hard liquor if they had a certain number of rooms.

Hard liquor drinks became available in Maryville in the 1970s when Wilson's Hotel opened a tavern at the location of what is now Burny's, Carneal said.

"They had enough rooms and they built that restaurant and they could serve liquor by the drink in there," Carneal said. "When that happened it blew the town open to hard liquor."

The site of what is now Burny's was also the Nodaway Democrat, one of three different newspapers at the time in the county.

The World Famous Outback was once the office building for a power generating plant that was just behind what is now a popular gathering place.

The St. Joe Light and Power Company owned the building before it became a bar, Carneal said.

The Palms, next door to the Outback, was once a bottling company that was in

business for about 50 years.

"When we starting drinking sodas ... local bottling companies got the bottles, developed the flavor and processed them," Carneal said. "It's my understanding that part of the bottle capping machine is still in the basement of The Palms."

The bottling company had an orange-flavored soda, and marketed its products in a very local area.

"The big thing they had was Bearcat Ginger Ale and Bearcat Soda," Carneal said. "When something like 7UP and Coca-Cola came along, and branched out into national marketing, many of the small bottling companies, and this did happen here, would attach to that and start bottling that drink as well."

Just blocks away from The Palms, The Pub was once the home of the Maryville Daily Forum. The building housed presses and the offices until the newspaper build

its current facility on East Jenkins street in the 1970s.

Remnants of the newspaper, such as the dark room, still remain in the basement, owner John Yates said.

"There's an area downstairs where the printing press used to be," Yates said.

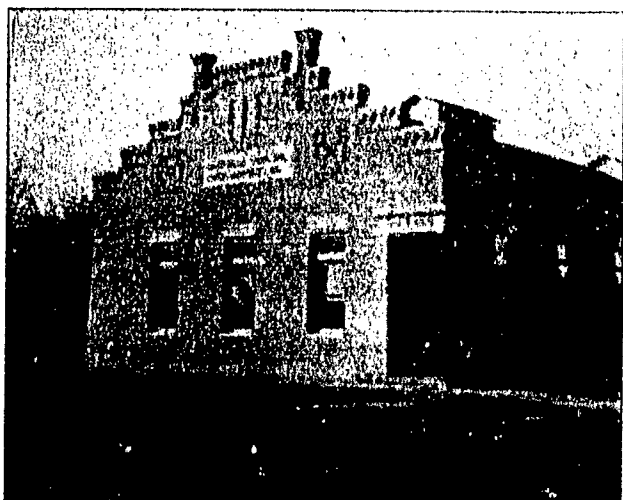
The building was originally a pool hall, before the Maryville Daily Forum moved in.

"The Palms and The Pub are probably the two mainstays," Yates said. "I know when alumni come back it's on their list of where they're going to stop at."

On the square, Molly's started as a car dealership. Before every Thursday night waves of college students hit the dance floor, Molly's also served as a farm store, owner Mick Hoskey said.

Hoskey bought the bar in 2002.

See BARS on A5



WHAT WAS ONCE The Old Maryville Light and Power Co. is now the World Famous Outback. The buildings that are now popular bars all served different purposes when first built.



## PLOGHOFF: Speaker talks commitment

Continued from A1

Her topic will focus on students who are struggling academically. The main focus is for students that are in danger of failing their courses, she said.

About 30 percent of students in the United States are at risk or in danger of failing. Many of the students fall within the estimated 30 percent are students that end up dropping out. Most of those students are gifted, but have not received the help they need and are not utilizing their talents, Levin said.

When Levin was a child, her father told her if people fail to do their best, the only people hurt are those they might have become. This is the reason she became so interested in helping students who are struggling academically. She realizes people have difficulties and she is willing and able to help raise their expectations within themselves, she said.

Levin's hope for speaking at Northwest, along with other universities, is to make people aware of expectations and raise the bar for achievement for at risk students. With this awareness not only the students, but the society also wins in the end, Levin said.

"If we don't reach those students, they have the ability to pull down the whole standard of living," she said.

For students who are at risk, Levin hopes they realize the need to look at the expectations they have in their lives. The question they must ask themselves is if they are settling. She hopes they look at their life and set their own expectations, Levin said.

"No one rises to low expectations," Levin said.

Ruhl sees Levin speaking as an opportunity to hear about personal commitment.

"It's good to hear her take to pull oneself out of poverty," Ruhl said.

### CAMPUS BRIEFS

## Gallery displays 11 art students' work

By Elizabeth Sexton  
Missourian Reporter

A Kansas City exhibition entitled "New Work" displays the unique presentations of 11 Northwest art students while showcasing shared influences and a diversity of inspiration.

The exhibit opened at Unit 5 Gallery with a reception during Kansas City's First Friday promotion, a popular art gala in the historic Crossroads Art District opens new shows each month. The display includes paintings, drawings, prints, photos, ceramics and sculptures that are available for sale and public viewing through April 18.

Ceramics major Jane Bowness said she hopes the viewers will look at her pottery and be able to share her perspective.

"I want to look into the beauty of an object and bring that out," she said.

Students Krista Busacker and Dustin Koopman convey beauty through their art as well in the shared inspiration of the human body. However, both artists are unique throughout the posturing of this concept.

"I'm fascinated with people and the way you can look at something and try to think about what is that's going on in the painting," said Busacker, who literally wants to draw people in with the texture and surface of her paintings.

Busacker studied abroad in Belgium last trimester and returned with the two pieces currently on display in addition to a new sense of being able to "loosen up" as an artist.

"I felt like I had been looking ahead and trying to prepare too much and thinking too much about my work and what I want to say," she said. "And not just saying you know I'm just a student at this age and I need to develop things that I'm interested in."

"Eventually that will develop into a solid idea instead of trying to come up with something solid from the start."

On the other hand, Koopman actually looks for a beginning in his sculptures within the end of the human body.

"The human body is an interesting subject," his artist statement explains, "but the transformations the body goes through after death are more interesting."

At a young age, Koopman came to terms with death when his grandfather, "who was like a father figure" to him, died from bone cancer. Later he continued to see the fragility of life through his work at a funeral home

where the deaths of close friends and neighbors "took a toll" on him.

"I live every day like it could be your last which could be kind of a bad way to live," Koopman said. "But I try and have a good time and let other people know I'm having a good time with them too because you never know what is going to come at you."

Koopman said he likes to help people so he came to Northwest in order to become a mortician and funeral director. After struggling through biology -- to the point of almost dropping out of school, he found his salvation in the study of art and continues to help people come to terms with the fear of death.

Fumi Yasukochi relates to the sense of escape and enjoyment in the study of art which shows in her ceramics and colorful paintings. As she said, biology and math is also not her thing, but when it comes to art she can "just do it."

"I was born to be an artist," she said. "That is my strong feeling inside."

Yasukochi, originally from Japan, has traveled all over the world. No matter where how far she is from home, Yasukochi is always inspired by who she is and her internal "Japanese spirit."

"Those are the times when I realize 'Oh my God, I'm so Japanese,'" she said. "And I realize this is kind of cool; Japanese art is kind of cool."

Junior Ryan Peoples also draws inspiration from his home environment of Grandview, Mo., with pieces that reflect the complexities of urban artists in a series involving an army of graffiti soldiers.

"Everything I do is based off of how I grew up," he said, explaining that the experience of living in a rural environment has helped enhance his message of street artistry. Those who view it as urban decay are entitled to their own opinion; if people don't understand art, you can show them, he said.

"Everyone needs a little culture in their life," Peoples said. "You can't do the same thing over again."

Senior Jon Ferguson invokes culture as well, bringing out the painter, keyboardist, bassist and guitarist from within. His compositions are influenced by sound and harmonize the two things he enjoys the most: music and art. Ferguson, a classically trained musician, said his pieces "are connections that can be made to music on an emotional scale or visual representation."



USING A WOODEN paddle to even out the surface of her clay piece, senior artist Fumi Yasukochi works on her wall installation project. She first drew an illustration of her project and is now molding the pieces of the drawing, which will be mounted on a large board. (Below) GETTING HIS INSPIRATION from working in a funeral home, artist Dustin Koopman works on his clay bust entitled "Female Burn Victim." Koopman is working on a series of human busts that focus on the theme of death and the different ways people can die. Koopman wants people to recognize death is a natural process and is not necessarily something to fear.

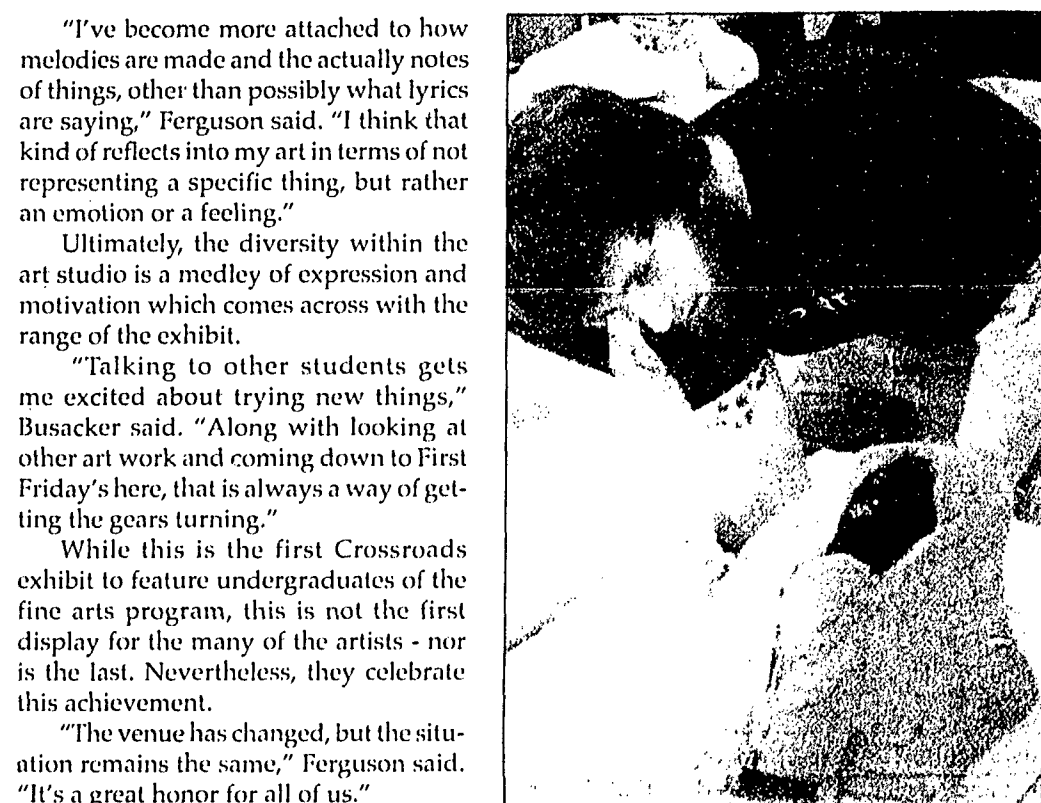


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OUR VIEW

# Kern needs to rethink service

I ate last week a recording of Oklahoma Rep. Sally Kern denouncing gays and the homosexual lifestyle leaked onto Web sites across the country. Youtube.com hosted the recording after an Oklahoma Republican group invited Kern to talk about her thoughts on the gay lifestyle.

Immediately, activist groups and citizens across the country called for a formal apology, some also asked Kern to resign. According to the 2000 census, 4.3 million Americans recognize themselves as gay, lesbian or transgender. Since the leak, Kern has received death threats more than 3,000 e-mails according to the Associated Press.

It is one thing for an average U.S. citizen to believe and voice their convictions against another demographic of U.S. citizens, it is quite another thing for a public official to believe and voice their convictions against another demographic.

During the recording Kern compares the homosexual lifestyle to terrorists and cancer. She also states her faith is the reason for her beliefs on homosexuality and says she is not "gay-bashing."

"They are going after our young children, as young as 2 years of age, to try to teach them that the homosexual lifestyle is an acceptable lifestyle," Kern said in the recording. "This stuff is deadly and it's spreading and it will destroy our young people, it will destroy this nation."

Kern defended her remarks Monday in various news stories across the country and also claimed her right to free speech.

Undoubtedly, Kern has her right to free speech. But her constituents also have the right to vote her out of office during the next election cycle. Someone who is capable of speaking such outrageous declarations against another group should rethink his or her choice of public service.

## Have opinions? Want them heard?

The Northwest Missouriian opinion page is looking for students and community members interested in being guest columnists or editorial writers for the spring trimester.

So, if you're a political animal, a news fanatic or just need to get something off your chest, feel free to submit.

If you're interested contact us by calling us in the newsroom at 660-562-1224 or e-mailing us at northwestmissourianews@hotmail.com. Letters to the editor can also be submitted via e-mail.

MY VIEW

## Government should not force abortion providers to turn over patient names, information

Abortion could be counted among the most controversial issues our generation has to face.

One of many issues in which legal rights conflict with moral and religious feeling, it is also an issue the courts decided long ago.

For decades the right to a safe, first-term abortion has been an indisputable legal fact in this country. Some content themselves seeking to reverse this history. Others wage a subversive war against abortion providers.

Imagine you step into your doctor's office for a standard over-patient



Katherine Downman  
Contributing Columnist

procedure, like having a mole removed. You sign the forms, your doctor explains the procedure once again and within an hour you're on your way with directions for recovery and maybe a few pain pills. Your mole was removed within the parameters of both national and state law, and in a way recommended by the American Medical Association.

How would you feel if your doctor turned over your records to any prosecutor who feels so inclined to see them, spurned by one of a number of over-zealous organiza-

tions? Now imagine your procedure wasn't so innocuous as a removed mole. Imagine you made a painful choice, which however controversial, happened to also be entirely legal.

How can the legal rights of the first patient to doctor-patient confidentiality be any different from the legal rights of the second?

The Planned Parenthood of Johnson County, Kansas faced just such a situation when a citizen petition resulted in the formation of a special grand jury to investigate possible violations of abortion requirements. The petitioners lacked any evidence of wrongdoing, its members comprised of citizens who simply do not like abortion.

Since December of last year, the Planned Parenthood resisted turning

over patient information, working out a way to give pertinent information to the presiding judge, while withholding the identities of their patients. Judge Moriarty was satisfied with the records and the grand jury found no evidence to implicate the Planned Parenthood.

Days after the grand jury reached its decision, they released a letter questioning the petition process that led to the grand jury. Several legislators expressed interest in examining the practice.

There is, admittedly, a need to ensure that certain laws regarding abortion are being enforced. In Missouri, minors are not allowed to have abortions without parental consent. Doctors must also ensure the fetus has not progressed past the three-month deadline.

This checklist has to take place at least 24 hours before the abortion. I agree that these are important requirements, but more important than my agreement is recognizing the fact that these requirements are law. A proper arm of the state should be created to oversee abortion providers and make sure that all the proper requirements are being followed. State legislatures should discuss the creation of such an official or office.

Frivolous lawsuits and subpoenas are hardly the answer. There is a legal way to deal with such matters, and then there is the ridiculous and the impractical.

In society, you give up certain rights. When you vote, it's an unwritten contract between you and fellow participants to abide by the decision of the majority. If you want to

see what happens when sore losers decide to take matters into their own hands, take a look at Kenya.

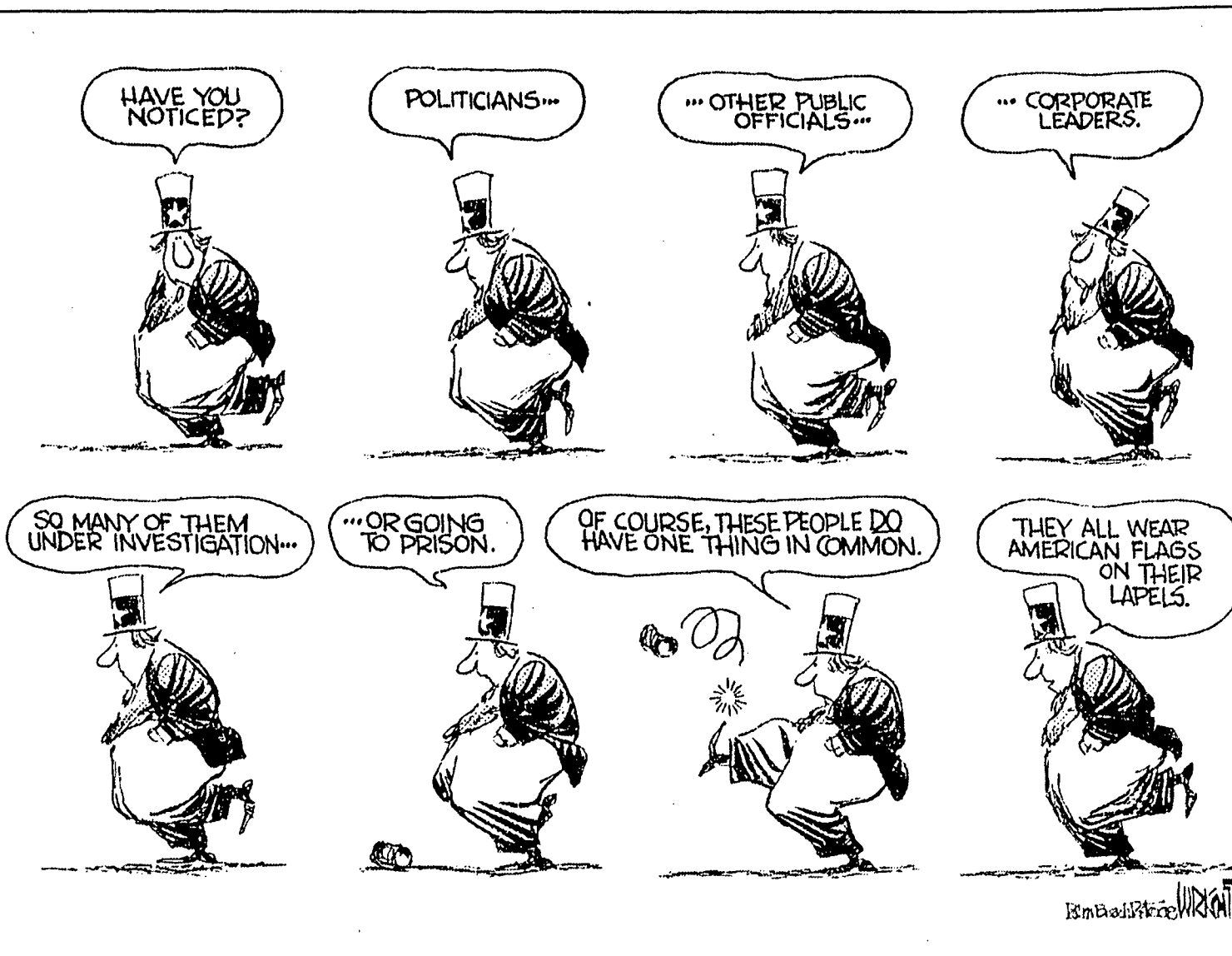
You send representatives to state and federal government, and their vote counts equally with all other representatives.

You also agree to accept the laws that body puts forth, despite personal opinion.

The debate to legalize abortion is over.

Many people want to reopen abortion for debate, and that's acceptable, so long as we can do it in a responsible, legal way.

To tie up abortion providers in court and try to make them reveal the names of women who choose abortions is not only silly, irresponsible and entirely unproductive; it's just plain wrong.



MY VIEW

## Other nations debate legality of Kosovo's declaration of independence

(Editor's Note: This is the second in a three-part series on Kosovo's history, present problems and future.)



Kathleen Wilmes  
Contributing Columnist

Last week I focused my attention on the history of Kosovo.

This second installment shall expand on this idea with the current situation of Kosovo's newly declared independence from Serbia.

In the latter part of February, after years of desperately wanting independence, Kosovo finally made the formal declaration of complete autonomy, although supervised.

The United Nations will still be an active force within Kosovo to help carry out the basic function of all govern-

ments, and that is protection. This is expressed in two aspects: the first dealing with the protection from outside forces by securing the borders, and the second by maintaining order from within, which includes the security of rights for the Serbian minority. The United Nations will be an active force within Kosovo until the state has created a peaceful environment and until it is ready to form its own armed forces.

Along with the newly declared independence comes division. Leaders around the world are split apart when it comes to the formal recognition of Kosovo, and this revolves around the U.N. Security Council resolution 1244, which was implemented in 1999.

Serbia believes that the secession of Kosovo is illegal and refuses to ever recognize the independence of Kosovo. The main country behind Serbia is Russia, which also believes that the secession goes against international law.

The two main forces that fully support and formally recognize the independence of Kosovo are the United Kingdom and the United States, who argue that the declaration of independence is in fact completely in sync with resolution 1244. They also argue that since a large number of governments have formally recognized Kosovo, the independence is irreversible, and the next step is to work productively with the two countries.

One large area of concern will be the economy and, more specifically, economic stimulation.

Kosovo is currently one of the poorest areas within the Balkans, with half of the former province unemployed, and a staggering number below the poverty line due to the previous ethnic cleansing and civil turmoil that took place.

Not only were many Kosovars purposely targeted and killed, but there were a large number of Albanians, the ethnic majority, who had to flee to surrounding countries. All of these factors combined and resulted in hyperinflation. The U.S. presence should hopefully provide a boost to the economy.

Another area that deserves our attention is the education in Kosovo. In many cases evident today, the success of a government is partially dependent upon the education of the citizens. Kosovo is among those in desperate need of education reform, which is apparent from the largely illiterate portion of the population.

The last main area of concern will of course be the government. There will have to be an oversight in the constitution, elections, laws and let's not forget taxes. Fortunately, most of this has already been set up due to 1999 Rambouillet Accords that really set forth the autonomy of Kosovo.

Next week I will direct my full attention on future problems that might arise, which will be the last piece on Kosovo.

## COMMENTS FROM NWMISSOURIANNEWS.COM

(The following comments have not been edited or changed. They appear in print as they do on the Web site.)

In response to "Alternative break returns" Cory posted 3/6

It is always refreshing to read that the Alternative Spring Break is doing so well. I know for years that the Christian groups on campus do mission trips over Spring Break and sometimes those can be rather intimidating for people who are not affiliated with those groups, but want to help people. It is totally wonderful to see the university doing more and more every year to reach out to the community and to meeting the needs of others.

Kudos to everyone who gives of their time to help others... Cal Crew, Break, Alternative Spring Break, and all those other service and selfless people and college activities/groups.

In response to "Your man loves dirty words" Dennis Sharkey posted 3/8

Didn't have anything to write about this week my man? I wish I had the minute or so of my life back that I wasted reading that.

## PUBLIC SAFETY

Jan. 21  
Travis C. Pierson, 27, DWI, failure to maintain right of roadway, 300 block N. Buchanan

March 1  
Virgilio L. Rios, 31, Maryville, DWI, improper registration, 600 block N. Fillmore

March 2  
Bryce D. Sleep, 18, Bedford, Iowa, MIP; Ryan J. Hughes, 19, Maryville, MIP; 100 block N. Vine

March 3  
Forgery, ongoing investigation, 200 block E. Third St.

March 4  
Elizabeth A. Masoud, 17, Maryville, improper registration, failure to maintain financial responsibility, driving without a valid driver's license, 1900 block S. Main St.

March 5  
Stanslaus M. Matua, 25, Blue Springs, Mo., wanted on warrant, 400 block N. Vine

March 6  
Aaron J. Youngworth, 24, Kansas City, Mo., wanted on warrant, 400 block N. Market

March 7  
Joshua D. Davis, 18, Maryville, under 19 in a bar, 300 block N. Market

March 8  
Sloan C. Bright, 18, Maryville, under 19 in a bar, providing false information to a Public Safety officer, 300 block N. Market

March 9  
Hope B. Cafferty, 17, St. Joseph, Mo., knowingly displaying another person's I.D. as own, providing false information to a Public Safety officer, 300 block N. Market

March 10  
Meghan R. Maxwell, 20, Maryville, MIP, 300 block N. Market

March 11  
Brook C. Houston, 19, Maryville, MIP, misrepresentation of age, 300 block N. Market

March 12  
Johnathon L. Percell, 22, Kansas City, Mo., failure to comply, trespassing, 300 block N. Market

March 13  
Property damage, ongoing investigation, 2400 block Burris Road

Robert C. Heiman, 32, Maryville, resisting arrest; Jesse L.R. Jones, 17, Maryville, dog at large, 1000 block N. Buchanan

March 1  
Wesley J. Harper, 19, Maryville, DWI, MIP; failure to obey traffic signal, 100 block E. Seventh

March 2  
Bryce D. Sleep, 18, Bedford, Iowa, MIP; Ryan J. Hughes, 19, Maryville, MIP; 100 block N. Vine

March 3  
Forgery, ongoing investigation, 200 block E. Third St.

March 4  
Elizabeth A. Masoud, 17, Maryville, improper registration, failure to maintain financial responsibility, driving without a valid driver's license, 1900 block S. Main St.

March 5  
Stanslaus M. Matua, 25, Blue Springs, Mo., wanted on warrant, 400 block N. Vine

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March 12  
Johnathon L. Percell, 22, Kansas City, Mo., failure to comply, trespassing, 300 block N. Market

March 13  
Property damage, ongoing investigation, 2400 block Burris Road

## FOSTER: Services scheduled Saturday

Funding for the project wouldn't come from the state; it would stem from donations by University alumni and friends.

Nevertheless, the project prevailed, and the idea of using donations for campus projects led to the creation of the Northwest Foundation.

"It provides a central focus for the campus, and to me that's important so that the campus has a character to it ... and then it has outer rings of buildings and so on. We've tried to maintain that," current President Dean Hubbard said of the Memorial Bell Tower. "He (Foster) would be the first to say that you have to deal with the environment you're placed in and whatever the challenges are at that moment in time."

Hubbard considered Foster both a friend and colleague. Having spent all but the last two years of his retirement in Maryville,

Foster often provided Hubbard and his administration with insight and suggestions, he said.

"We interacted on a regular basis, and I could talk to him about anything; he would give me his advice," Hubbard said. "He was always supportive. I cannot remember an issue he wasn't supportive of, regardless of what it was ... and so over time our friendship grew even more."

Before making a trip to England a few weeks ago, Hubbard visited Foster for the last time in Kansas City. The last of their many conversations, Hubbard said, underscored Foster's loyalty to the University.

"He knew — we all knew — that he would not return to normal functioning, and we had a marvelous conversation about his time at Northwest, both as registrar and as president and what he was most proud of,"

Hubbard said. "I mean, that's all he was talking about. It was his life, and he was proud of the institution."

Funeral services are at 11 a.m. Saturday, at the First United Methodist of Maryville, followed by a reception from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Northwest Foundation Alumni House on campus.

Scheduled to officiate, Hubbard began asking people who knew Foster best how they'd describe him to someone who'd never met him. Before long, he discovered something.

"These themes start to emerge ... He was proud of his wife, he was proud of his family and he was proud of Northwest," Hubbard said. "As one person said, he took this place from being a small country college to a university. And indeed, the name was changed to 'university' during his tenure, and he ratcheted the institution up."

## BAR: Molly's played disco before rap

Continued from A1

"At some point it opened up as Molly's and it was a country bar," Hoskey said. "Somewhere around 2000 they switched it over to what it is now."

While the building has served the community in different ways, it has been a local hot spot for several years, after the building was bought by former psychology professor Homer Lamer, Carnel said.

Before turning into a country bar, the building had a disco club, Hoskey said.

At that time, part of the building was a gift shop, and upstairs had a woman's exercise gym, Carnel said.

On the opposite end of the square in downtown, Carson's Sport's Grille was once a J.C. Penney's store. The building housed a dry goods merchant, then a Chinese restaurant before becoming vacant, Carnel said. Before the owners of Carson's Sports Grille bought the building, it was home to Lucky's, a local bar.

Automobile owners wanting parking space caused the evolution from the shopping center of Maryville to what the downtown

area is today, Carnel said. After retail businesses moved outward from downtown, many buildings were occupied by lawyers, the courthouse annex and a couple small businesses, he said.

"The bars are just another phenomena of somebody that would come along and rent the spaces, that's what it really amounts to," Carnel said. "Their business tend to be after five o'clock ... downtown is vacant so the bars have all the parking spaces for their patrons."

Dominic Genetti contributed to this story.

FEMA

## County awards total more than \$10,000

By Dominic Genetti  
Community News Editor

Not-for-profit organizations in northwest Missouri are getting federal aid.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has awarded the five-county area with \$10,341 to help with funding for heating bills and food pantries.

"It's not necessarily disaster relief funds," Operations director of Community Services, Inc., Kris Marion, said. The five counties consist of Nodaway, Holt, Atchison, Gentry and Worth.

"With the severe weather we've had, the money's run out very quickly," FEMA local board Chair Linda Stephens said.

Local organizations chosen must be a private voluntary not-for-profit or a unit of government. They must have an accounting system, practice nondiscrimination and have demonstrated capabilities in emergency food delivery and/or shelter programs, Stephens said.

Private and voluntary organizations must have a voluntary board.

Not-for-profit organizations can submit proposals and present them at the next local FEMA board meeting at 10:30 a.m. Friday April 4 at Community Services, Inc., located at 1212B S. Main St. in Maryville.

"At that meeting, the board makes a decision on where the money goes," Stephens said. "I would strongly encourage any not for profit to submit a proposal."

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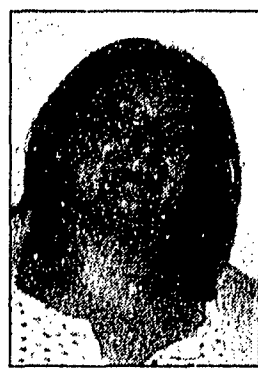
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## CAMPUS TALK

## What are your spring break plans?



"Relaxing, and a golf tournament,"  
Lauren Atkinson  
Business Management



"Working with mentally handicapped adults,"  
Krystal Neenan  
Biology, Psychology



"Working, and not going anywhere,"  
Heather Marsh  
Humoristics



"I'm going on a cruise with my family,"  
Carrie Pryor  
Business Management







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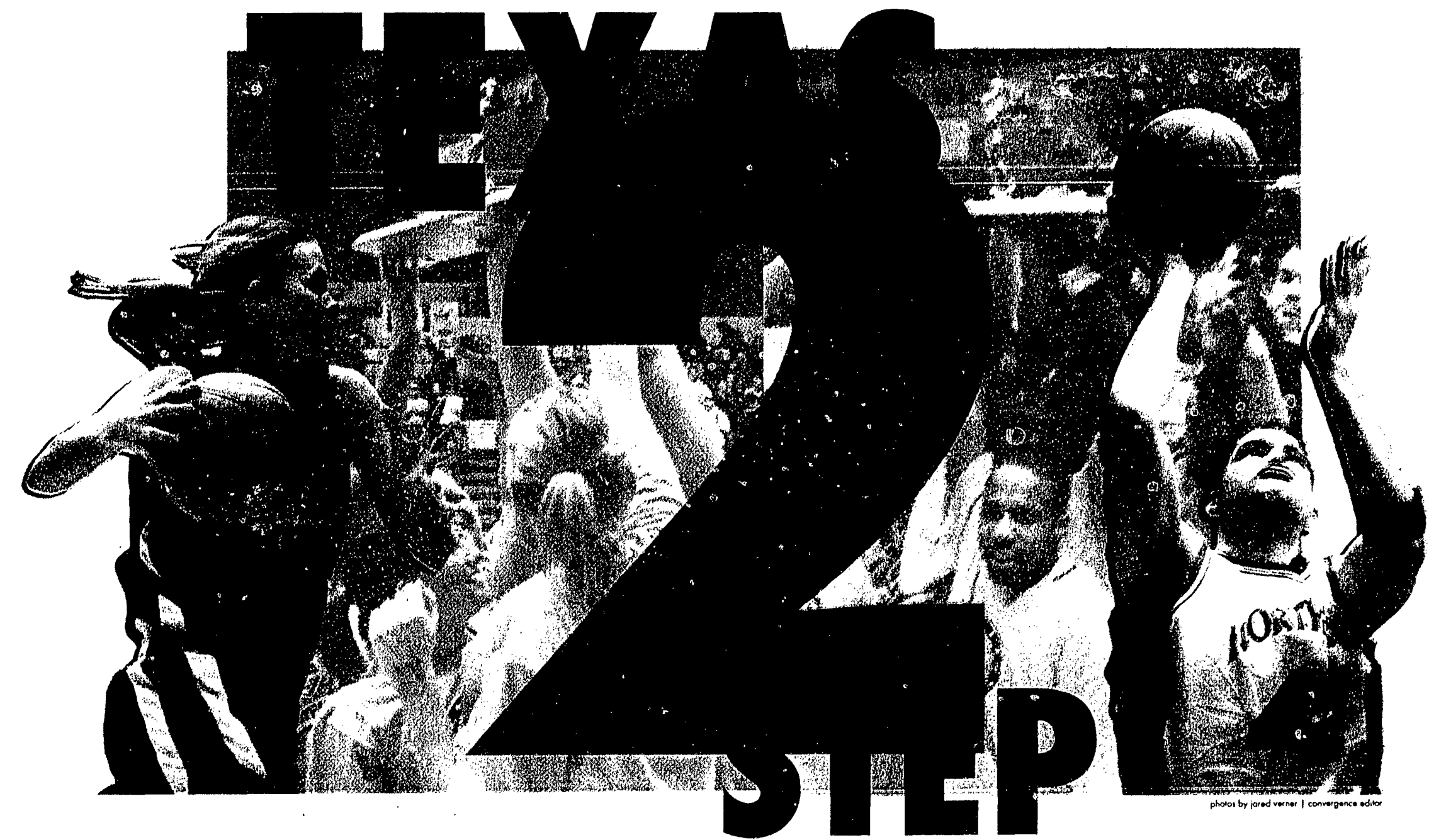
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# SPORTS

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## Rematch awaits women in 1st round

By Scott Levine  
Sports Editor

Northwest women's coach Gene Steinmeyer can't quite pinpoint it. The players can't explain it either. No one seems to have an answer for what happened between the regular season finale loss to Fort Hays State and the MIAA championship win last weekend in Kansas City.

None of the Bearcats seniors could isolate a single characteristic that changed their future from watching the regional tournament from home to their first round South Central Regional Tournament rematch with West Texas A&M.

Although there was no definite answer, each senior repeated the same message about an attitude change.

"We watched film, and it was like watching a completely different team out there"

Mandi Schumacher,  
on the MIAA tournament

"We just got on the same page as a team," MIAA tournament MVP Mandi Schumacher said. "We just have a different attitude. We watched film, and it was like watching a completely different team out there."

After losing to Fort Hays in the regular season finale, the 'Cats had to win the MIAA tournament for a regional tournament berth. Northwest even trailed by nine points with less than eight minutes remaining during the tournament's first round matchup with Missouri Southern.

From there, though, the 'Cats outscored the Lions 27-10, and didn't look back as they upset No. 1-seed Washburn, and then cruised past No. 3-seed Southwest Baptist.

"Really we have to credit Southern," Steinmeyer said. "They hit us in the mouth, and we said we had enough of that. If we play a finesse team in the first round, then we don't have the same results."

Physical play dictated the pace of all three contests in Kansas City. The 'Cats stymied the Ichabods, allowing 56 points and holding leading scorer Corkey Stiger to three second-half points.

During the championship game against Southwest Baptist, Northwest allowed 58 points. During two regular season meetings against Southwest Baptist, Northwest allowed 97 and 85 points.

See WOMEN on B2

## Men enter regional seeking consistency

By Brett Barger  
University Sports Editor

Northwest got very defensive in its run to the MIAA Tournament championship last Sunday.

The Bearcats allowed 47.3 points in three games, including a tournament-record 42 points in the opening round against Pittsburg State. In that same game, the offense put up 71 points on 41 percent shooting.

"Friday, the ball was moving well and I felt like we were moving in the right direction," coach Steve Tappmeyer said.

That changed the next couple of games. The defense held Washburn to one field goal in the final eight minutes, but couldn't put the Ichabods away, escaping with a 50-49 win.

The 'Cats faced the same problem in last Sunday's championship game. Northwest held Emporia State to 25 percent shooting in the second half, but couldn't take advantage, shooting 36 percent in the 57-51 win.

"I thought we had some really questionable shot selection," Tappmeyer said. "If somebody starts taking some quick shots, then the next guy might be likely to take an early shot. We also started dribbling around, rather than passing and those are contagious deals. That's the stuff we have to address."

Senior guard Andy Peterson agreed, but added the close games during the regular season and conference tournament makes the team stronger.

"You go through those all year, and you like to think when it comes down to it, that will help you and we think it will this weekend," Peterson said.

Saturday, No. 2-seed Northwest begins its quest for the national championship when it opens the South Central regional against No. 7 seeded St. Edwards (Texas). The Hilltoppers, of the Heartland Conference, won the regular-season championship and are coming off a nine-point loss in the conference tournament final.

"I know we're playing a good opponent. It'll be a tough ballgame," Tappmeyer said. "We like to think that as good as these other leagues are, that the MIAA toughens you up for regional runs."

"Being a senior, it's what you hope for in your last season. It's how people remember you"

Andy Peterson,  
on the regional tournament

See MEN on B2

### NW TRACK

## Miles, Wright making first trip to nationals; Falkner competing for 3rd time

By Marcus Meade  
Asst. Sports Editor

While most of the Northwest track team prepares to move outside, three members of the men's team have unfinished business indoors.

Kendall Wright, E.J. Falkner and John Miles will compete this weekend at the NCAA Indoor Championships.

For Falkner, national competition is old hat. He's qualified twice before. But Wright and Miles will compete at the

Division II national level for the first time. Miles qualified for nationals at the NAIA level at Park University.

"The last three years I had a chance at nationals, and this year I finally got it," Wright said. "I told some of the coaches before track started that I was going to make it, and I did."

Wright qualified by winning the long jump at the MIAA Indoor Championships with a jump of 23-8 1/4. That gives him the 13th best mark in the nation.

Soreness has bothered Wright during

the last week, but coach Richard Alsop said the soreness shouldn't affect him by this weekend.

"Kendall has been injured a lot, (in) football and track," Alsop said. "Some of the track stuff, I think, has been focus, and this year, he learned how to spell that word ... this is the Kendall we certainly expected here."

Miles has battled nagging injuries as well. He strained his groin during the conference championships, but won't let it keep him from competing.

Luckily for Miles, he's seen many of the competitors he'll face at nationals. The MIAA will send six runners in Miles' event, the 60-meter dash, including Falkner.

"It's really not weird for me," Miles said of running against Falkner. "It's always been my goal to go to nationals, and I did that. I think it's just a benefit to see both of us run. It's more ways to represent our school."

Falkner seemingly has the best chances to place at the national meet. He has the

seventh best time in the nation at 6.79 and has experience in national competition. Falkner finished sixth in the 200-meter dash in 2006.

Though Miles has to compete against one of his teammates, he's glad he'll have company on the trip.

"You get a little bit more relaxed," Miles said. "You have somebody else to interact with so that will be good."

Miles and his teammates will take part in the NCAA Indoor Championships March 14-15 in Mankato, Minn.



SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL MEN'S CAPSULES

**No. 1 Tarleton State vs. No. 8 St. Mary's**  
St. Mary's comes in with a five-game winning streak. They allow just under four points less than top-seeded Tarleton State. But, the Texans are the superior team inside and outside.  
Tarleton has made 197.3 points. The Texans will use their 3-point shooting to jump out to a big lead, and will win comfortably.  
Prediction: Tarleton wins 72-59

**No. 4 West Texas A&M vs. No. 5 Southwest Baptist**  
Both teams missed any chance of hosting good-bye after disappointing first-round exits in the conference tournament.  
Baptist is dominant inside and outside, and that should be just enough in an opening round win.  
Prediction: Southwest Baptist wins 69-62

**No. 3 Central Oklahoma vs. No. 6 Fort Hays**  
Central Oklahoma averages 83 points a game. One thing that doesn't bode well for the Bronchos is their defense.  
Fort Hays State is the better defensive team, and that will keep them in the game.  
Prediction: Central Oklahoma wins 68-63

**No. 2 Northwest vs. No. 7 St. Edwards**  
If there's one team that doesn't make first-round exits, it's Northwest. The Beacats haven't lost a first-round regional since 2000.  
St. Edwards has been knocked out of the first round the past two years and will be going home early once again.  
Prediction: Northwest wins 69-49

SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL WOMEN'S CAPSULES

**No. 1 West Texas A&M vs. No. 8 Northwest**  
Northwest needed an impressive showing at the MIAA tournament, and that happened. Now, the Beacats need another one of those performances, but this time they must go outside the MIAA. The Buffaloes are a one-woman machine. If the 'Cats can stop Brister, then expect a major upset.  
Prediction: West Texas A&M wins 69-65

**No. 4 Emporia State vs. No. 5 Southwest Baptist**  
Emporia State has the knack for losing games it shouldn't. This team might be better off against the best teams, which suits them well in this setting. The Hornets cruised past Southwest Baptist in the season finale, and this game shouldn't be much different.  
Prediction: Emporia wins 78-73

**No. 3 Central Oklahoma vs. No. 6 St. Mary's (Texas)**  
Central Oklahoma has too much offense for St. Mary's to handle. Lizzie Brenner and Cassidy Pillow each average in double figures, and that should be enough to propel Central Oklahoma to a first round victory.  
Prediction: Central Oklahoma wins 89-72

**No. 2 Washburn vs. No. 7 Angelo State**  
Washburn must work better as a team. Angelo State shouldn't be able to keep up with the lobs, but if no one other than Corkey Stiger, then Washburn could be in trouble. If someone other than Stiger can step up, then Washburn could make it to the elite eight.  
Prediction: Washburn wins 73-59

WOMEN'S KEYS TO WINNING

**Defense**  
Northwest must continue its energy on defense. During the regular season, it looked as if defense was an after thought, especially during the latter part of the season. But in three games at the MIAA tournament, Northwest took its defense to a new level. Everyone seemed to play with more energy, and it showed.

**Against Washburn**, a combination of defenses helped stymie leading scorer Corkey Stiger in the second half. In the championship game, constant pressure led Southwest Baptist to poor decisions with the basketball. If the Beacats continue that trend, they could be a dark horse.

**Offense**  
The team shot extremely well and did not panic when other teams were making runs. During the regular season, Northwest would open big leads, but couldn't sustain a run from the opposing team. In the MIAA tournament, Northwest took everything the opposing team had, and combined it with timely shots and no turnovers. That must continue if the 'Cats look to go deep in the tournament.

**Rebounding**  
More energy on defense and offense usually correlates into better rebounding. That's exactly what happened last weekend. Guards, forwards and centers were flying to the offensive and defensive glass. Against a smaller team like West Texas A&M, Northwest could really use this to its advantage.

MEN'S KEYS TO WINNING

**Defense**  
Defense was superb during the MIAA Tournament. The Beacats allowed a high percentage, but they were able to make stops when they needed to. In the semifinal and championship games, they were able to keep Washburn guard Andrew Meile and Emporia State guard DeAndre Townsend.

**Offense**  
This is where the 'Cats could run into trouble, should they encounter a team that's close to their defensive intensity. In the semifinal and championship games, the team settled for quick shots, and didn't run their offense as well as the opening round win against Pittsburg State.

**Matt Withers and Hunter Henry** have played well down the stretch, and they will be the key to Northwest's success. Mike Larsen and Lance Sullivan must be patient and run the offense. Expect Mose Howard to be a factor in the backcourt during the entire regional.

**Rebounding**  
Rebounding will not be a key for Northwest. Most teams are bigger than Northwest, and that's okay. One area the team has struggled with is defensive rebounding. With the team sometimes settling for quick shots, an extra defensive rebound helps.

WOMEN: Conference tournament champs face off in round 1

Continued from B1

"We're a much better physical team, than finesse," senior Andrea Dill said. "We don't want to be pushed around. Our offense may go through some ups and downs, but our defense needs to be a constant. We're not the same team that we were in the regular season."

Rebounding statistics also showed Northwest's increased physical play. The 'Cats owned a 130-94 rebounding advantage during the weekend. Northwest grabbed 21 offensive rebounds and amassed 17 offensive boards against Southwest Baptist. The purple Beacats managed 17 defensive rebounds.

It wasn't just Schumacher who provided the rebounding edge. Either Schumacher totaled a team-high 26 rebounds, but guards Meghan Brue and Lauren Williams had 21 and 18 rebounds, respectively. Even point guard April Miller got into the rebounding act, hauling in 19 rebounds.

"We went into the Southern game and they were used to being physical," Miller said. "We were able to be physical back to them, and then did the same to Washburn and Southwest Baptist. A lot of teams don't like to be physical. It will be interesting to see how we respond to different referees."

When Northwest travels to Canyon, Texas to square off against West Texas A&M, it won't be like last weekend's MIAA tournament or like the last time these teams faced each other. One of those differences could pose a potential problem for Northwest's redesigned game plan.

"I was watching film of a tournament game with West Texas, and both teams were in the bonus with 10 minutes left in the first half," Steinmeyer said.



NORTHWEST GUARD LINDSAY Bayer struggles to grab the ball during last Sunday's championship victory against Southwest Baptist. Northwest totaled three wins in four days to receive an automatic bid to the regional tournament.

"We don't know how the committee is going to appoint officials, but if they're calling it close, we're going to have to adjust."

In last year's first round regional tournament, contest against the Buffaloes, foul trouble plagued the 'Cats. Williams, Jessica Burton and Miller fouled out, while Brue had three fouls. If it happens again this year, Williams said the bench is capable of producing quality minutes.

"I don't know if I've felt like this all year, but right now, I feel that anyone that comes in for me can do as much as I can and more," Williams said.

That statement came to fruition in the MIAA championship game. Micaela Uriell entered the contest averaging 2.6 points per game, but came off the bench and led the team with 10 first half points. Dill came off the bench and clipped in a team-high 18 points, including a stretch where she recorded nine consecutive points.

"They're a guard-oriented team, and basically one player compiles all their stats," Williams said. "I think if we shut her down we'll have a good chance. They have to stop 12 of our players, and I don't think they can stop all 12."

Guard Emily Brister leads the Buffaloes in almost every statistical category. Brister averages a team-best 21.6 points per game and 7.7 rebounds per game. The junior guard also leads the team in assists, blocks, steals and minutes.

Brister mustered 20 points during last year's meeting, while junior guard Courtney Lee produced 23 points.

"We can't get too excited before the game," senior Kelli Nelson said. "During the last two games of the (MIAA) tournament, we were relaxed and comfortable. If we stay within our same routine, we should be able to play with any team."

The 'Cats first round matchup starts at 8 p.m. against West Texas A&M. The winner moves on to the second round to face either Emporia State or Southwest Baptist.

Log on to [nwmissourianews.com](http://nwmissourianews.com) after the game for a complete recap.

MEN: Shooting for return to Elite Eight

Continued from B1

St. Edwards has faced MIAA competition during its run of three-straight regional appearances. In the previous two tournaments, the Hilltoppers went out in the first round to Southwest Baptist in 2006 and Central Missouri last season.

Top-seed Tarleton State hosts the regional, and opens against No. 8 seed St. Mary's Saturday night. Fort Hays State and MIAA regular season champion Southwest Baptist round out the other MIAA schools in the regional.

The team is expected to leave today for Stephenville, Texas, where it will travel the nine hours by bus. The team will make stops to practice - a routine Tappmeyer said it has done before.

"This way, we get them in and it gives us more of a together feeling," Tappmeyer said. "And we'll be down there plenty early to get the bus trip out of our system."

TOP PICKS

Top 3 picks of the week

By Sydney Moore  
Entertainment Reporter

**Be a kid again** - "Horton Hears a Who!" the animated flick based off the Dr. Seuss classic, hits theaters Friday. Jim Carrey ("Bruce Almighty") and Steve Carell ("40-Year Old Virgin") provide the two lead voices in the film, ensuring great comedy in this kiddie-flick. In the film, Horton the elephant (Carrey) discovers the town of Whoville on a speck of dust. While everyone around him calls him crazy, Horton believes that he can protect the town of Whoville, and his mayor, (Carell) which gets him nothing but grief from his neighbors. In the end, Horton stands by his motto that "a person is a person, no matter how small."

**No plans for Friday night?** - Comedian Stephen Lynch will perform at 7:30 p.m., Friday, at the Performing Arts Center. Lynch, who frequently appears on Comedy Central, is best known for his offensive songs, such as "Kill the Kitten" and "Country Love Song," as well as his stand-up act. The free show is an easy date for Northwest students and only \$5 for public admission.

**Now on DVD** - "No Country for Old Men," the Oscar-winning Best Motion Picture of the Year, was released on DVD Tuesday. The thriller, starring Tommy Lee Jones, Josh Brolin and Javier Bardem, tells the story of a hunter that comes across dead bodies, drugs and \$2 million. Instead of turning in the crime scene, hunter Llewellyn Moss (Josh Brolin) keeps the money for himself, which sends a psychopathic killer (Bardem) on his case. The action-packed movie is full of thrill and keeps the audience on the edge of its seat.

STROLLER

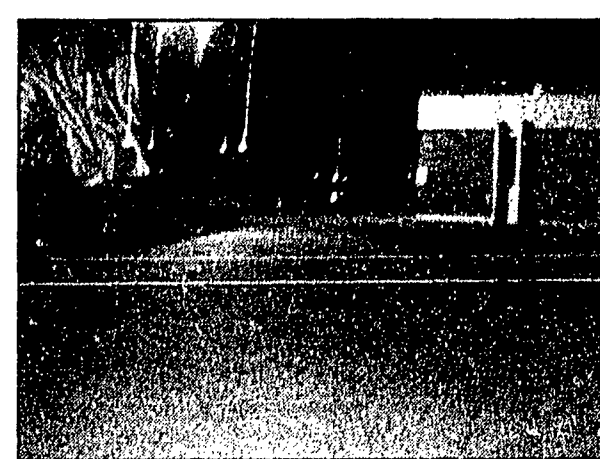
Your Man values his lost hour

Al-Qaida stole my hour.  
Actually, it wasn't al-Qaida. It wasn't anyone, really, but for some reason I lost an hour. I have no one to blame, so from now on, I'll blame al-Qaida.

I could have done so much with the hour I lost. Here's a short list of great things I won't get to do until Hulk Hogan defeats the terrorists and gives us our hour back in the fall.

**Take a nap**  
Usually, I don't even bother taking naps unless they're three hours long. But it's possible that I could have power napped it before Tuesday's lunch buffet at Emerald's. Read one of the "Nate the Great" books.

If you've never read a "Nate the Great" book, you're missing out. They're written about a third-grade reading level, but if you're restless, or a child at heart like me, you'll love them. The books are only 25 pages long, and center around a kid detective and his dog. They solve completely point-



The Stroller

less mysteries for the kid's friends and cat panicles. It's awesome.

**Not satisfy a woman**  
Here's an activity I can do all night. I am the king of not satisfying women. I'm so good; I could major in it.

The preparation might take longer. How long does it take to pay a woman for sex, when she wants the money up front? But in one hour, I could not satisfy a woman a few times, and if I have enough money, I could not satisfy two women at the same time.

**Drink four beers**  
I've been told this is a lot of beers to consume in one hour. I wouldn't know; I only consume holy water and pork rinds.

**Listen to the original "Rapper's Delight" four times**  
That's right. The original is 15 minutes long.

I could meet all my favorite friends Big Bank Hank, Wonder Mike and Mater Cee for some hip-hop high jinks.

**Watch an episode of "House"**

Gregory House is easily the funniest cripple in the world. He limps through life making fun of his patients and coworkers, and I love it.

If House were a real person, I'd let him crush my self-esteem every day. That concludes the list of things I may do with my hour once Hulk Hogan wrestles al-Qaida for it. He is a real American.

The Stroller has been a tradition since 1918 and does not reflect the views of The Northwest Missourian.

MOVIE REVIEW

Moves outshine plot in 'Step Up' sequel

By Destinee Biesemeyer  
Missourian Reporter

Meetings of underground crews in the city might inspire a rise to violence, but for many the result is dancing.

A text message with a location is sent out and within hours, hundreds of teens are meeting for a dance competition in the streets. These club-like meetings are a chance for the best crews to show off their newest and most creative moves, ultimately resulting in a winner.

"Step Up 2: The Streets" mostly cast new stars with one old face. Lead roles introduced Briana Evigan who plays Andie, Robert Hoffman

as Chase and Adam Sevani as Moose. One actor "Step Up" fans are sure to recognize, is Andie's brother, Tyler, played by Channing Tatum from the first movie.

The story begins with a dance crew, 410, performing publicly and anonymously for attention and respect. After being caught dancing by her guardian, Andie is told she has to move to her aunt's in Texas because these public disturbances are illegal. Suggesting a suitable alternative, Tyler recommends Andie attend the Maryland School of the Arts.

After an audition made successful by one student judge, Chase, Andie faces the conflict of individ-

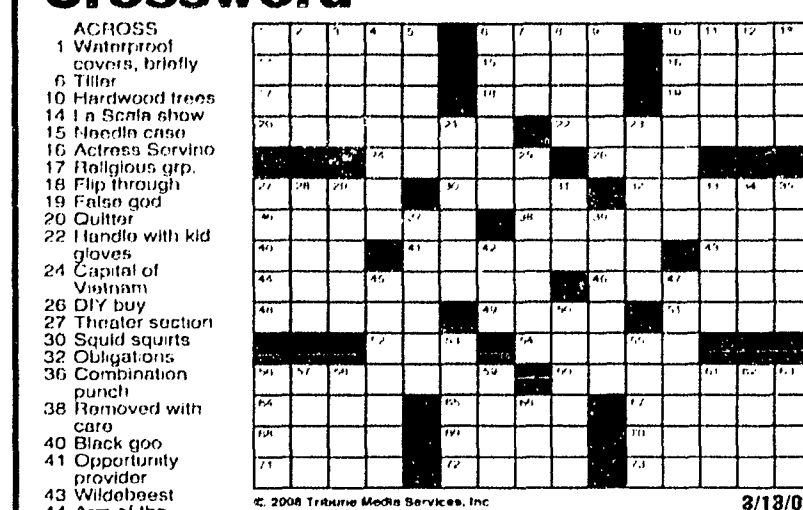
alism versus conformity. Caught between schoolwork and 410 practices, Andie is cut from her crew.

With the help of her friends, Moose and Chase, a new crew, MSA, is formed with students of the school. They eventually compete for the title in a streets competition against 410.

The plot ran smoothly, but was faulted by a predictable sequence, corny dialogue, and an inevitable love story between the two leads. Acting was solid, and although they were not aided with a complementing script, their message was clearly portrayed.

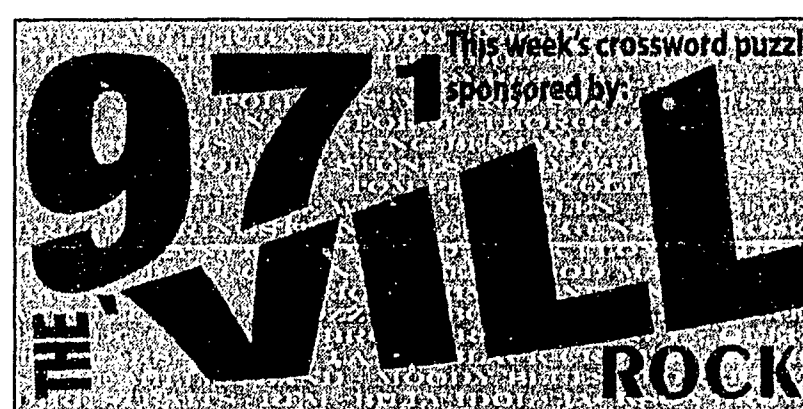
I hoped exposure of these incredible dance competitions would

Crossword



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ACROSS	DOWN
1 Watercraft, usually inflatable	17 Ending on Oahu
2 Title	18 Ending on Oahu
3 Hardwood trees	19 Ending on Oahu
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inspire an equally creative script, but the most exciting parts were dance-offs. Fortunately, the creative and sharp dance moves trump all of that and literally saved the movie. In several scenes, new and entertaining moves left mouths open in awe and hips dancing in chairs.

If you are looking for a complex and thought-provoking plot, "Step Up 2" is not for you. However, if

you are just interested in a good time and updating dance moves, I recommend it.

Destinee gives "Step Up 2" 3.5 out of 5 popcorns

NWMSU Men, Women Athletes of the Week

**Henry**

The junior from Lenexa, Kan., averaged 13.3 points per game during his MVP performance at the MIAA tournament. He also hauled in nine rebounds per game.

**Withers**

The senior forward from Taylorsville, Utah, totaled 11 points and four assists against Emporia State during the MIAA championship game.

**Schumacher**

The senior center from Columbus, Neb., averaged 14.3 points per game during her MVP performance at the MIAA tournament.

**Williams**

The senior guard from St. Joseph, Mo., totaled 18 points against Missouri Southern and 12 points against Washburn.

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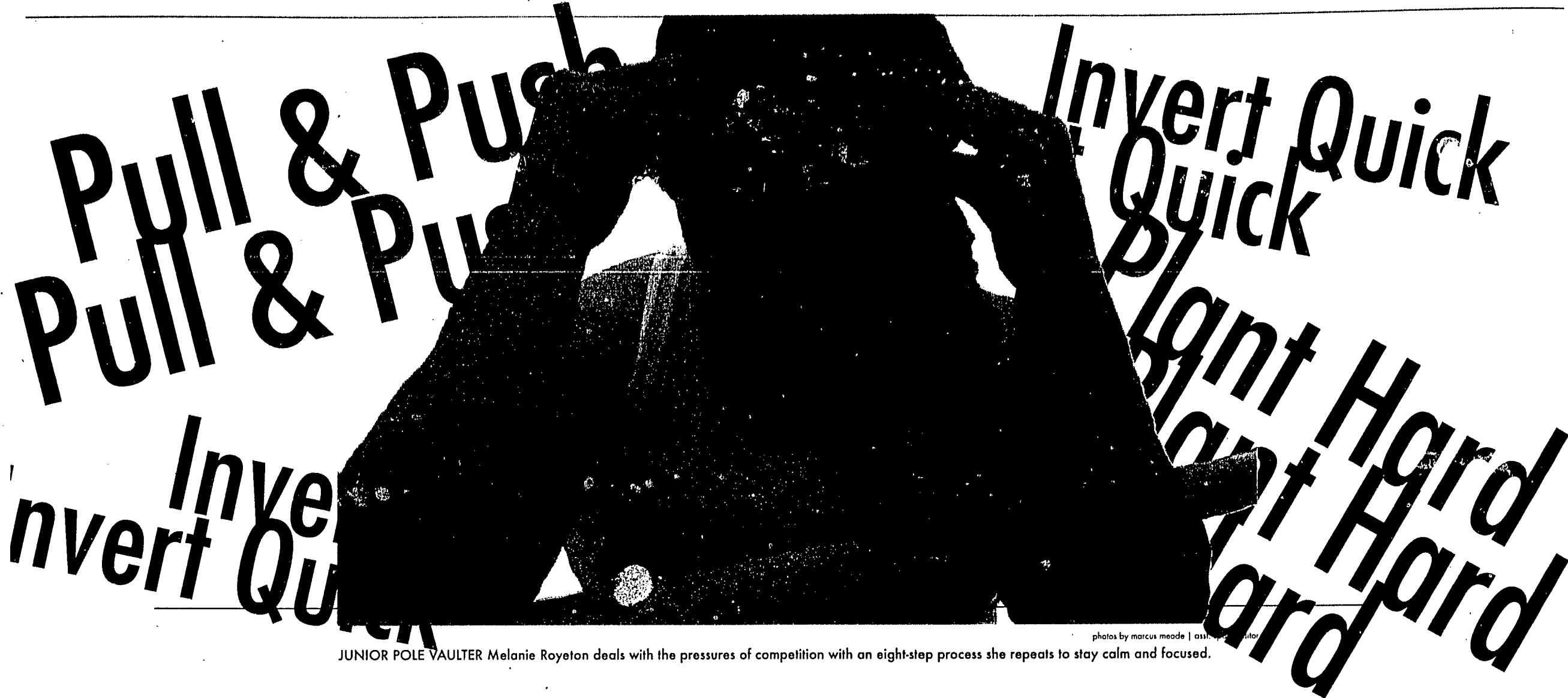
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JUNIOR POLE VAULTER Melanie Royeton deals with the pressures of competition with an eight-step process she repeats to stay calm and focused.

# MIND GAMES

Pole vaulter visualizes process; utilizes mental training

By Marcus Meade  
Asst. Sports Editor

Step 1. Be aggressive. 2. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 3. Jump hard. 4. Plant tall. 5. Push hard. 6. Invert quick. 7. Pull and push. 8. Fall.

Melanie Royeton restates these steps to herself over and over again, trying to push all other thoughts from her mind. Waiting to vault, the chatter of other competitors surrounds her as she attempts to repel it with her eight steps. The frights of competition weigh in also, but she keeps repeating.

"It's supposed to keep me calm, but not too calm," Royeton, a Northwest pole vaulter, said. "I have a tendency to either be on one side of the board or the other."

For Royeton, competing has less to do with the body and more to do with the mind. After clearing heights up to 12 feet in practice, Royeton sometimes struggles to clear eight feet in competition.

When women's track coach Scott Lorek saw Royeton struggling,

he developed the eight-step process, wrote it on a note card and told Royeton to start talking to herself.

Royeton is just one example, but Lorek works on focus, confidence and visualization with many of his athletes as part of a global sporting trend focusing on the mental side of sports.

Some of Lorek's athletes have problems with focus, like Royeton. Others have trouble with confidence after making the jump from high school to college.

"It can be tough, because your emotional and mental feedback can be all negative if you're used to leading or used to pretty much controlling races, and all of a sudden, you're not," Lorek said. "You're the one hanging on, or you're the one trying to stay up. And the end result, if you don't make that adjustment, essentially the effort level drops without really any intention of doing that."

But Lorek isn't the only coach turning attentions to the mental and emotional aspects of their sport. Northwest baseball coach Darrin Loe has strategies for getting his players ready to deal with the emotional aspect of baseball by teaching them to overcome failure.

During live batting practice, Loe gets his team ready to deal with obstacles by intention-

ally making bad calls on balls and strikes. He then forces his pitchers and batters to overcome the anger they may feel toward being cheated.

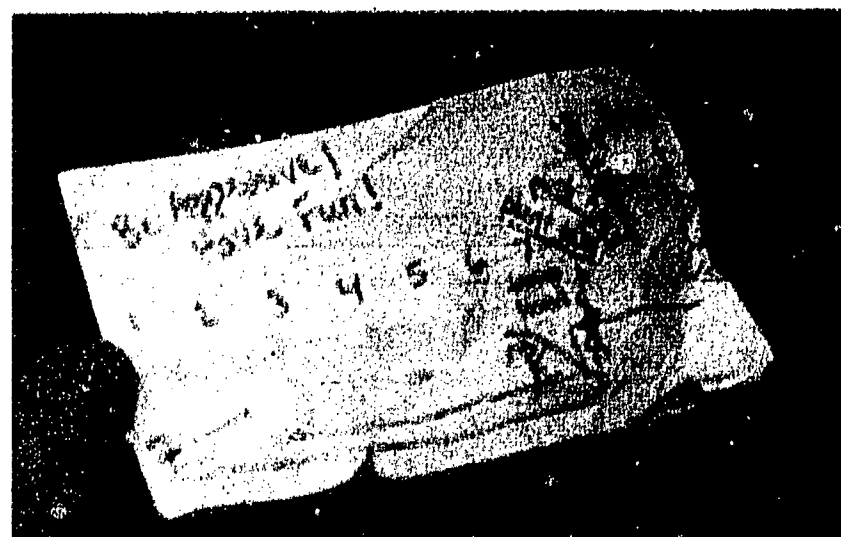
"Baseball's really a game of failure, because even your best hitters, the top hitters in the conference, aren't hitting much over .400 batting average ... so, they're failing more times than they're succeeding," Loe said. "So, they have to be able to deal with that failure and try to keep a positive outlook."

Increased interest in the mental aspect of sports has led to a boom in the young field of sports psychology. Andrew Jacobs, who started his own sports psychology practice in Kansas City, said his field has grown by leaps and bounds especially at the collegiate level.

"When I moved back to Kansas City and began my practice, nobody had really heard of sports psychology," Jacobs said. "Since then, it's been growing in popularity. Obviously, the mental aspect of sports has become a lot more pronounced ... so, the field has grown dramatically in the last 27 years."

Jacobs works with many athletes on focus and self-confidence as well. But Jacobs also has many clients who display signs of the most well known psychological issue in sports — "the yips."

"Typically, the people who get the yips are people who worry a lot," Jacobs said. "People who worry a lot are people who think a



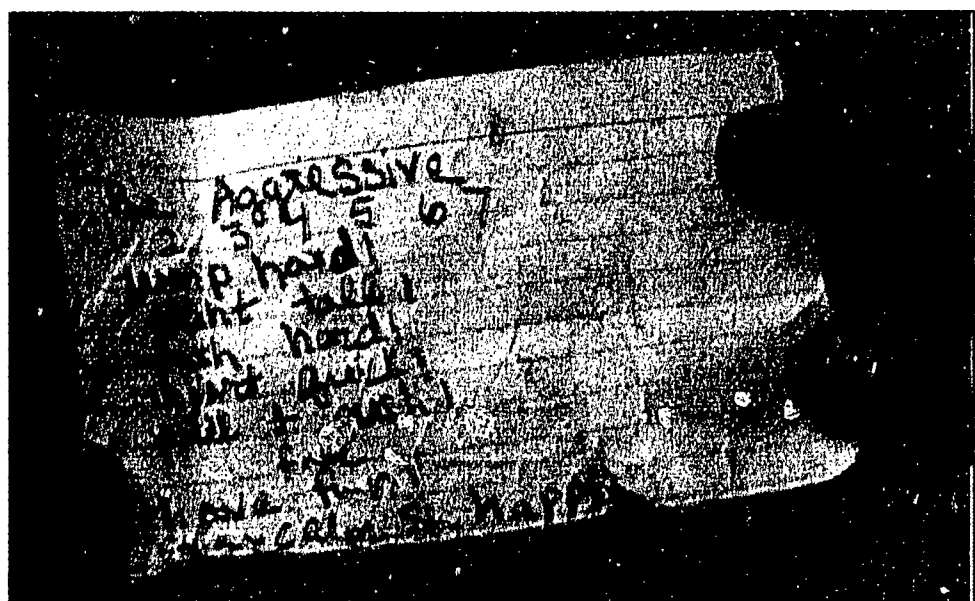
MELANIE ROYETON'S doodle outlining her eight-step process. Royeton jokes about the final step of the process, insisting that falling will happen no matter what.

lot. People who think a lot get stuck in their mind, and they get obsessed with thinking about negatives."

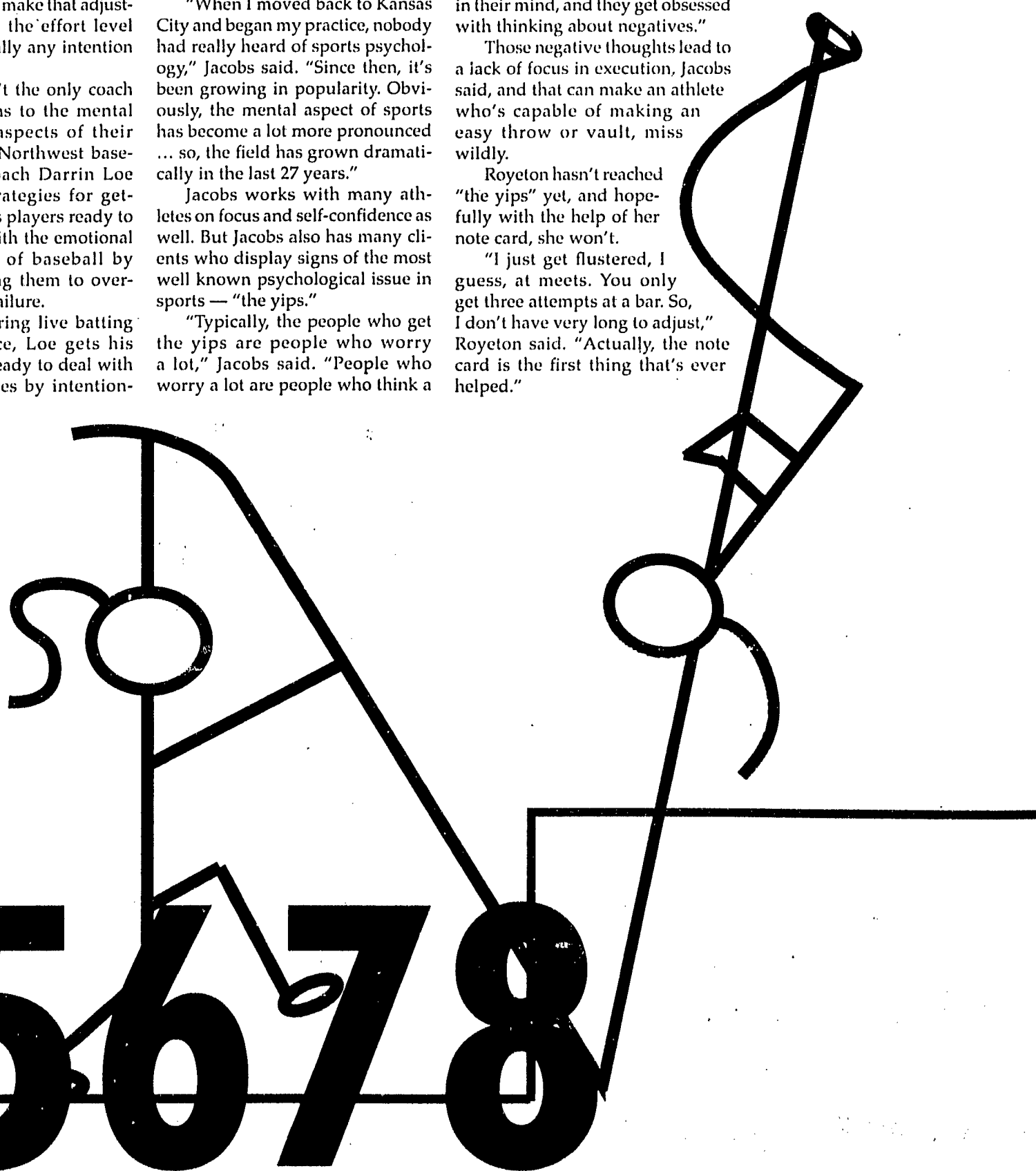
Those negative thoughts lead to a lack of focus in execution, Jacobs said, and that can make an athlete who's capable of making an easy throw or vault, miss wildly.

Royeton hasn't reached "the yips" yet, and hopefully with the help of her note card, she won't.

"I just get flustered, I guess, at meets. You only get three attempts at a bar. So, I don't have very long to adjust," Royeton said. "Actually, the note card is the first thing that's ever helped."



MELANIE ROYETON'S note card is crumpled with use. Coach Scott Lorek developed her eight-step process and gave her tips reminding her to 'have fun' and 'stay calm.'



Tennis

Track and Field

Baseball

Soccer

Softball

Golf



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3.13.2008

# SPRING SPORTS PREVIEW

photo by kristina kemp | editor: k. kemp



## Tennis aims for nationals

By Brian Bosiljevac  
Missourian Reporter

The Northwest men and women's tennis teams enter the 2008 season with high expectations. That shouldn't come as a surprise, since both teams advanced to the Sweet 16 at the NCAA Regional Tournament last season.

"We have two goals," coach Mark Rosewell said. "One is win the MIAA tournament. The other, to win the regional tournament and advance to nationals."

The men, currently ranked No. 31 nationally, sit at 5-1 with their only loss coming at the hands of No. 5 Drury. The 'Cats dropped that match 8-1 with their sole point coming from their No. 1 doubles team, freshman Vigit Seghal and sophomore Felipe Gennari.

"Vigit is always going out there looking to win every match," co-captain Jake Saulsbury said. "Having freshmen adds a spark to a team. They are just excited to play tennis at the college level, which both of our freshmen (Seghal and Giovanni Auricchio) have that excitement."

Although they do have a young team Saulsbury feels the team's unselfish nature will push them to success.

Saulsbury said the team pulls for each other during each match to get them to the national tournament.

The women's team is 3-2 and just like the men they don't lack any confidence.

"The attitude of the team right now is just figuring out what we need to work on but we know we can make it to nationals," junior Jordan Lipria said.

The women return a very familiar roster with the addition of only one new Bearcat and they feel that is what will help them this season.

"A years' worth of experience is very helpful," Rosewell said. "Hopefully we will be a better team than last year and last year was a very good team."

Rosewell seems to think that more experience will only make these teams even better, and as long as they progress throughout the season, they will have nothing to worry about. One thing that seems evident is that the men and women have one similar goal — make it to nationals.

## Alsup set to conclude Northwest career

By Marcus Meade  
Asst. Sports Editor

Northwest track coaches Richard Alsup and Scott Lorek are probably ready to strangle Jack Frost right about now.

The continually poor weather conditions have kept most of the men's and women's outdoor track teams from training outside.

The Bearcats have spent the last three months inside a gym and are ready for the open air.

"I'm glad to be going outside," freshman sprinter Rachel Lewis said. "The track is so much better outside, so, people should perform better and run faster."

Lewis and freshman Bridget Kleine were among the bright spots of the indoor season. Lewis was named MIAA Freshman of the Year and finished second in the 60-meter dash. Kleine finished second in the 400-meter dash.

"Overall, we want to continue the things that we've established," women's coach Lorek said. "Definitely, I think some of the outdoor events are going to make us a stronger team."

Among those outdoor events, Lorek listed the heptathlon, 400-meter hurdles and 10,000-meter run. The 'Cats scored in all three outdoor events last year at the conference meet with Audrey Bailey winning the 400-meter hurdles and Kara Spader placing second in the 10,000-meter run.

The 'Cats may also benefit from the return of a few runners from the trainers' room. Junior Emily Churchman will return from injury in time for the outdoor season. Sophomore Lindsay Biermann became available toward the end of the indoor season,

but for Lorek, he'd rather her be ready for the outdoor season.

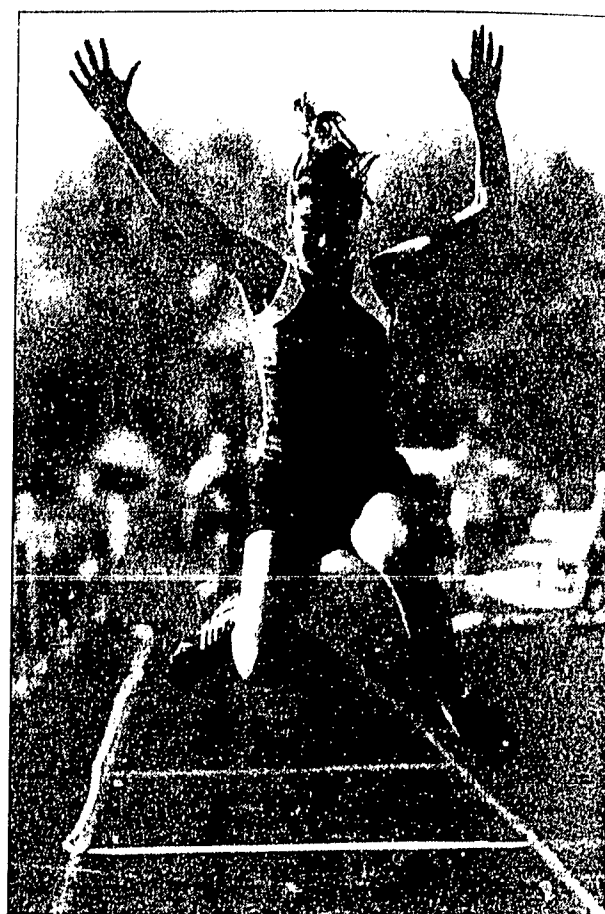
The men's team, on the other hand, still has unfinished business from the indoor season. Seniors John Miles and E.J. Falkner along with junior Kendall Wright will compete at the NCAA Indoor Championships March 14-15.

Falkner, Wright and Miles all represent the two greatest strengths for the men's outdoor team, sprints and horizontal jumps, men's coach Alsup said.

The men will look toward the long distance running of athletes like sophomore Ben Chappell and freshman T.R. Pursell to supplement a stellar sprinting corp.

"He ran near a school record time as a freshman, and that's impressive," Alsup said of distance runner T.R. Purcell at the MIAA Indoor Championships.

Another positive for the men's squad is the addition of Courtland Ingram who was ineligible for the indoor season. Ingram will give



JUNIOR JENNIFER KISS computes in the long jump at the Herschel Neil Track in Bearcat Stadium last spring. Kiss returns this season as a long jumper and heptathlon athlete. Kiss finished 10th at the MIAA Multi-Event Championships last year.

the 'Cats a pole vaulting presence as senior Brad Cox recovers from a broken arm.

This outdoor season also marks the final season for Alsup who will retire at its conclusion. Alsup has coached track at Northwest for 23 years.

"We'll try to get coach Al out of here with a conference win," Wright said. "(We'll) try to give him a happy last year."

## Golf begins inaugural spring season

By Brett Barger  
University Sports Editor

Winter weather has slowed the Northwest women's golf teams' preparation for the spring season.

Their season opener at the Rockhurst Invitational on March 6 was postponed because of weather. The team started practice on Feb. 20, but most of the practices have been relegated indoors. With limited equipment, the team has been hitting golf balls against a net on an artificial surface.

In addition, the limited time on the course hasn't allowed first-year coach Pat McLaughlin enough time to size up his top golfers. A conversation with William Jewell women's golf coach Larry Maiorano describes the precarious position the team faces.

"He said his girls only have 36 holes of golf under their belt," McLaughlin said. "I said that's 36

more holes than we have. It's been tough, but there's not much you can do about it."

McLaughlin said competition to make the travel team for each meet will be tight. Four golfers finished with a match-best of 90 or below last trimester.

"We're very close, competitive-wise," McLaughlin said. "After our No. 2 and No. 3 golfers, the girls are very close, score wise."

Eight players return from the fall season, where the team finished first place in their second-ever meet. The team also notched a second-place finish at the inaugural Bearcat Invitational. The Board of Regents added the sport in April 2006.

"Because of the success we had last fall, we're going to work on lowering our team score so that we're more competitive," McLaughlin said.

Jessica Feuerbach, who led the team last trimester with an average

score of 91.3, said the team has high expectations for the championship season, where individuals and the team can qualify for a regional tournament.

"After the inaugural season last fall, that cannot really be an excuse anymore," Feuerbach said. "Although we are all still freshmen, we've already 'been there,' we all know what it is like to compete at the college level."

"We place the highest expectations on ourselves, and expect to have more individuals in the Top 10, and finish higher in the team races as well. These goals are well within our reach, but I know that it will take hard work out of everyone on our team to accomplish them."

The team opens the spring season at the Missouri Western Invitational. The tournament runs March 17-18 at the Fairview and Moila Golf Courses.

## Returners fuel high hopes

By Scott Levine  
Sports Editor

The Northwest softball team doesn't want the season to end like last year.

Entering last year's MIAA tournament, Northwest held a No. 8 ranking in the North Central Region poll, giving them the final regional tournament spot with a week remaining.

But after exiting the MIAA tournament on day two, Northwest saw not only its conference season end, but its regional tournament hopes. Northwest fell out of the Top 8, as three other MIAA teams qualified for the tournament.

"Last year we came so close to making it, we're building off that this year," sophomore second baseman Erin Leslie said. "We need to stay positive and reflect on the good and not on the bad. We need to just keep focusing as a team."

Northwest, currently 8-3, returns eight players from last year's 25-18 squad, including seven starters. Coach Ryan Anderson also returns for his second season, after nearly guiding the 'Cats to their second straight regional tournament.

"We should expect to win every game," Anderson said. "Players are starting to understand that we can't hope to split doubleheaders, we need to go into them and expect to sweep those."

Four All-MIAA performers return, including pitchers Kelly Morris and Cola Krueger. Each received honorable mention All-MIAA honors last season, and so far this year, they've combined for all eight victories.

Krueger owns a 3.35 ERA, while Morris has 32 strikeouts.

"We're five steps ahead of where we were last year," Krueger said. "We basically expect to beat everyone. It sucked that we got beat out last year, but that's made us want to work really hard this year."

Megan Simpson and Erin Leslie earned honorable mention All-MIAA honors last season for their offensive prowess. Sickiness has slowed second team All-Region performer Simpson this year as she's participated in only six contests.

Opposing pitchers haven't slowed

down Leslie this season. Leslie and junior college transfers Tiffany Carter and Casey Carper haven't experienced any rust during the season's opening games.

"It's definitely all about the team," Leslie said. "Our team goal is to get on base and move each other over. We want to be smart, aggressive baserunners and focus on being an aggressive team."

Leslie is 9-for-9 in stolen base attempts and has a .405 batting average, good enough for second best on the team. Carper is 6-for-6 in stolen base attempts and owns the team's best batting average at .585, despite having the most at-bats of any Northwest player.

Carper has 12 RBIs, a 600 on-base percentage and a .707 slugging percentage, while Carter has driven in a team-high 17 runs.

"Right now our one through five batters are producing big," Anderson said. "We're capable of scoring a lot of runs. We don't have a ton of speed, other than about three people on the team, but we know we can do the little things right."

Courtney Channell, Janelle Krohn and Kaila Ballard round out the rest of the returning starters. Ballard and Channell possess .393 and .385 batting averages, respectively. Channell's clubbed two home runs and drove in 12 runs, while owning a .615 slugging percentage.

"It's not terribly new for these girls the second time around," Anderson said. "The players want to reach that next step, and we're starting to get the right players in place."

Anderson said the team must continue to improve, despite continued indoor practice. Last year, the team didn't endure a consistent schedule until mid-April.

"Just look at last year," Anderson said. "It doesn't show up in the records, but we fought so much with the weather. The players had to go 10 days without going outside for most of the season. That hurt us so much last year. But it always helps going through that last year."

Last weekend's tournament at Missouri Southern was canceled due to inclement weather. Northwest is

### Bearcat softball schedule

March 19—Missouri Western\* (DH) 1 p.m.  
March 20—Wayne State (DH) 1 p.m.  
March 25—at Cameron (DH) Lawton, Okla. 1 p.m.  
March 26—at Central Oklahoma (DH) 1 p.m.  
March 29-30 Nebraska-Omaha Tournament  
March 29—vs. Southwest Minnesota State 9 a.m.  
March 29—vs. South Dakota 1 p.m.  
March 29—vs. Minnesota State 3 p.m.  
March 30—vs. Minnesota-Duluth 11 a.m.  
March 30—vs. Wayne State (Neb.) 1 p.m.  
April 2—at Truman\* (DH) 2 p.m.  
April 5—at Pittsburg State\* (DH) Noon  
April 6—at Emporia State\* (DH) Noon  
April 8—at Nebraska-Omaha (DH) 3 p.m.  
April 11—Fort Hays State\* (DH) 2 p.m.  
April 12-13 Northwest Classic  
April 12—St. Cloud State 11 a.m. April 12—Minnesota State 1 p.m.  
April 12—South Dakota 3 p.m.  
April 13—Minnesota State 11 a.m.  
April 13—Augustana (S.D.) 1 p.m.  
April 15—Washburn\* (DH) Maryville, Mo. 2 p.m.  
April 18—at Southwest Baptist\* (DH) 3 p.m.  
April 19—at Missouri Southern\* (DH) Noon  
April 22—Central Missouri (DH) 3 p.m.  
April 26-27 MSU Mankato Softball Classic  
April 26—vs. Nebraska-Omaha 9 a.m.  
April 26—vs. Concordia-St. Paul 1 p.m.  
April 27—vs. Minnesota-Duluth 11 a.m.  
April 27—vs. Wayne State 3 p.m. May 1-2 MIAA Tournament TBA  
May 8-12 NCAA Regionals TBA TBA  
May 15-19 NCAA Nationals TBA

\*—MIAA conference games  
home games in bold

scheduled to return to action at 1 p.m., Wednesday, at home in a doubleheader against Missouri Western.

"We definitely feel like we are up there with the top teams in the conference," Krueger said. "We want to be one of those top teams with a target on our back."



NORTHWEST SOFTBALL PITCHER Cola Krueger works on different pitches during last spring's practice at the softball field. The season's first home game will be at 1 p.m., Wednesday March 19, when Northwest faces Missouri Western.

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## 2008 NW Baseball schedule

March 14—Central Missouri\* 1 - 9 inn. 2 p.m.  
 March 15—Central Missouri\* 2 - 7 inn. 1 p.m.  
 March 16—Central Missouri\* 1 - 9 inn. 1 p.m.  
 March 21—at Southwest Baptist\* 1 - 7, 1 - 9 inn. 1 p.m.  
 March 22—at Southwest Baptist\* 1 - 7, 1 - 9 inn. noon  
 March 25—at Wayne (Neb.) State\* 1 - 9 inn. 2 p.m.  
 March 28—at Fort Hays State\* 1 - 9 inn. 7 p.m.  
 March 29—at Fort Hays State\* 2 - 7 inn.  
 March 30—at Fort Hays State\* 1 - 9 inn. noon  
 April 1—Missouri Western\* 1 - 7, 1 - 9 inn. 2 p.m.  
 April 4—Missouri Southern\* 1 - 9 inn. 3 p.m.  
 April 5—Missouri Southern\* 2 - 7 inn. 1 p.m.  
 April 6—Missouri Southern\* 1 - 9 inn. 1 p.m.  
 April 8—Missouri Western\* 1 - 7, 1 - 9 inn. 4 p.m.  
 April 11—Washburn\* 1 - 9 inn. 3 p.m.  
 April 12—Washburn\* 2 - 7 inn. 1 p.m.  
 April 13—Washburn\* 1 - 9 inn. 1 p.m.  
 April 15—Nebraska-Kearney 1 - 9 inn. 3 p.m.  
 April 18—at Emporia State\* 1 - 9 inn. 7 p.m.  
 April 19—at Emporia State\* 2 - 7 inn. 1 p.m.  
 April 20—at Emporia State\* 1 - 9 inn. noon  
 April 22—Nebraska-Kearney 1 - 9 inn. 6 p.m.  
 April 25—Pittsburg State\* 1 - 9 inn. 3 p.m.  
 April 26—Pittsburg State\* 2 - 7 inn. 1 p.m.  
 April 27—Pittsburg State\* 1 - 9 inn. 1 p.m.  
 May 1—at Truman\* 1 - 9 inn. 4 p.m.  
 May 2—at Truman\* 1 - 9 inn. 4 p.m.  
 May 3—at Truman\* 2 - 7 inn. noon  
 May 9-11 MIAA Tournament  
 May 15-18 NCAA Regionals  
 May 24-31 NCAA Nationals

\*MIAA conference games  
 home games in bold

## CAREER RBI RECORDS

John Sipes.....161, 2000-2003  
 Britt Westman.....161, 2005-current  
 Adam Bailey.....147, 1998-2001  
 Ryley Westman.....139, 2004-2007  
 Zac Ruff.....132, 2000-2002  
 Kyle Gallagher.....119, 2003-2005  
 Bob Gonsoulin.....117, 1978-1981  
 John White.....107, 2004-2007  
 Ron Czanstkowski.....104, 1988-1989  
 John Bothof.....103, 2000-2003



NORTHWEST FIRST BASEMAN Britt Westman congratulates his teammates last spring after winning both games of their doubleheader against Emporia State. The Bearcats next home game is at 2 p.m., Friday against Central Missouri.

## STATISTICS

**Batting Average**  
 K. Kurtz .448  
 N. Pfeiffer .429  
 R. Bledsoe .400  
 C. Benham .346  
 T. Conner .300

**Hits**  
 R. Bledsoe 14  
 K. Kurtz 12  
 N. Pfeiffer 12  
 B. Westman 9  
 C. Benham 9

**Home runs**  
 B. Westman 5  
 K. Kurtz 3  
 N. Pfeiffer 1  
 B. Disselhoff 1  
 T. Conner 1

**Runs batted in**  
 B. Westman 14  
 R. Bledsoe 8

N. Pfeiffer 8  
 K. Kurtz 6  
 2 tied at 3

**Stolen bases**  
 C. Benham 7  
 N. Pfeiffer 5  
 R. Bledsoe 3  
 3 tied at 1

**Earn run average**  
 D. Malone 4.63  
 B. Harvel 5.28  
 J. Epley 9.64

**Strikeouts**  
 B. Harvel 15  
 J. Gradel Jr. 9  
 E. Nickell 6  
 D. Malone 6  
 J. Epley 6

**Wins**  
 B. Harvel 2  
 5 tied at 1

**Losses**  
 J. Epley 1  
 E. Nickell 2

**Team stats**  
**Batting Average**  
 Team .316  
 Opponents .327

**Runs scored**  
 Team 59  
 Opponents 43

**Earned run average**  
 Team 5.08  
 Opponents 6.78

**Home runs**  
 Team 11  
 Opponents 4

**On base percentage**  
 Team .421  
 Opponents .396

## NEWCOMER STATISTICS



Sean Brady

**Sean Brady**  
 Freshman  
 ERA: 13.50  
 Innings pitched: 1.1  
 Strikeouts/Walks: 3/1



Ryan Bledsoe

**Ryan Bledsoe**  
 Senior (transferred from Nichols State)  
 Avg.: .400  
 Hits: 14  
 Doubles: 1  
 Runs: 11  
 RBI: 8



Ben Briant

**Ben Briant**  
 Freshman  
 ERA: 0.00  
 Innings pitched: 2.1  
 Strikeouts/Walks: 2/0



Jeff Gradel Jr.

**Jeff Gradel Jr.**  
 Junior (transferred from Jefferson College)  
 ERA: 4.70  
 Innings pitched: 7.2  
 Strikeouts/Walks: 9/8



Kreed Kurtz

**Kreed Kurtz**  
 Sophomore  
 (transferred from Coffeyville College)  
 Avg.: .448  
 HR: 3  
 Hits: 13  
 Doubles: 4  
 Runs: 6  
 RBI: 6  
 Slugging perc.: .897



Trevor Connor

**Trevor Connor**  
 Freshman  
 Avg.: .300  
 HR: 1  
 Hits: 6  
 Doubles: 1  
 Runs: 5  
 RBI: 3  
 Slugging Percentage: .500



Ben Stedronsky

**Ben Stedronsky**  
 Sophomore  
 ERA: 4.91  
 Innings pitched: 3.2  
 Strikeouts/Walks: 5/2

## Looking to end regional draught

By Sam Robinson  
 Community Sports Editor

It has been five years since the Northwest baseball team advanced to the NCAA Regionals. In losing their top pitcher and two top hitters, this season's Bearcats did not appear ready to break that streak.

But, after winning seven of its first nine games, Northwest has jumped out to its best start since 1989 and hopes to surprise even more prognosticators come May.

The 'Cats' apparent holes in the bullpen and in the power department concerned coach Darin Loe. But after his team's 7-2 start, which has featured timely home runs and saves, the ninth-year coach admitted a slight misstep in his early assessments.

"I think we've cured a lot of weaknesses that we thought we had going in," Loe said. "We thought our bullpen might be a little thin and we thought our power numbers might be down. We proved the power (and the bullpen) thing wrong; at least for the first nine games."

Last season's team (30-26) stumbled through a 3-9 start and even though the 'Cats' ended up finishing third in the MIAA, they could not attain a regional berth.

Experience propelled that team, as four-year starters Kyle Westman and John White led at the plate. This year, however, the quick emergence of the 2007 captains' replacements has been the biggest surprise.

Sophomore catcher Kreed Kurtz leads the team with a .448 batting average, while senior shortstop Ryan Bledsoe has 11 runs and eight RBIs from the leadoff spot.

"We knew they were good athletes and we knew they had success in the past," Loe said. "You just didn't know how they were going to perform in the spring. Bledsoe's really ignited us from that leadoff spot by getting us on the board early and we didn't know about the power (Kurtz's) had thus far. Those two guys have been very instrumental in our success."

Junior pitcher Bret Harvel has been equally

impressed with the newcomers' starts.

"They filled our holes so far at shortstop and behind the plate," Harvel said. "You couldn't ask much more from them."

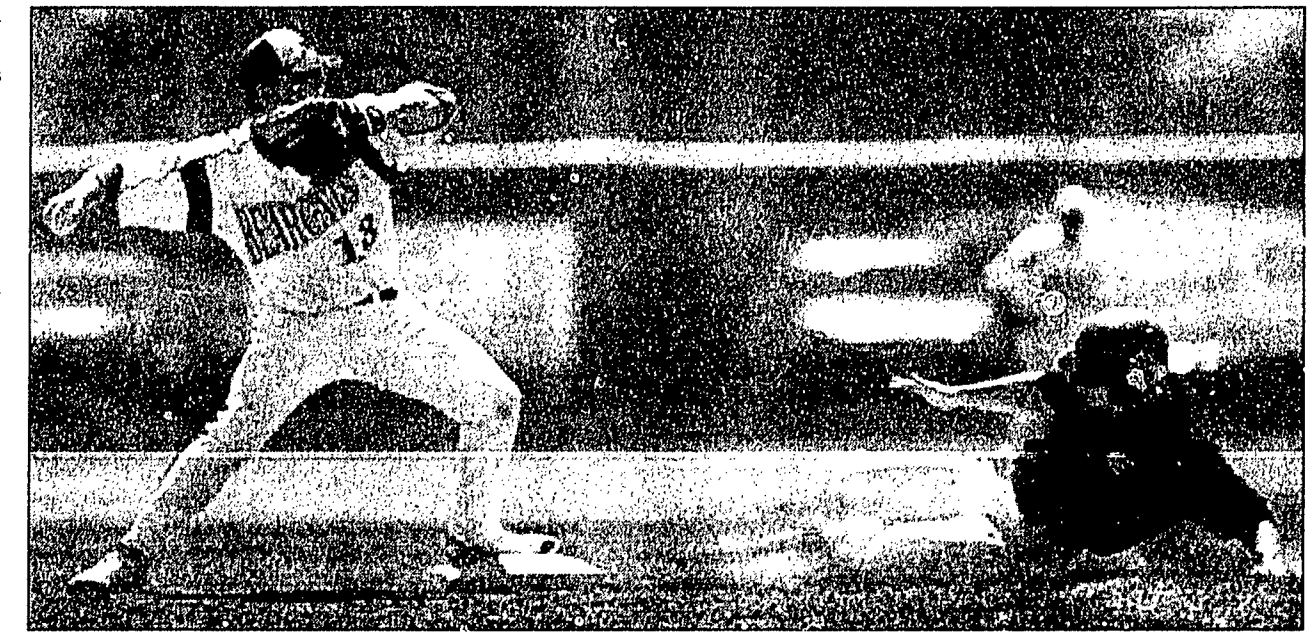
While Kurtz and Bledsoe are the chief newcomers, the offense still gets its runs from a fourth-year starter. Senior first baseman Britt Westman, who has five home runs and 14 RBIs, is tied for the career RBI mark with 161. Junior Ben Malick, who finished second on the team with a .335 batting average last season, returns for at the hot corner.

The outfield remains intact, as Chris Benham, Jake Bradshaw and Brandon Kirsch return. Kirsch tied Britt Westman last season with 11 home runs to lead the team, while Bradshaw's 17 stolen bases also paced the 'Cats.

The four transfer starters from a season ago (Harvel, Joel Epley, Danny Malone and Bill Disselhoff) each return on the hill, with another transfer, Jeff Gradel Jr. rounding out the rotation. Senior Evan Nickell, who had a 3.21 ERA in 21 relief appearances last year, is now the closer.

With a year in the MIAA under their belts, Loe thinks 2007's transfers will notice some improvements.

"Some of those guys felt their way through last year and probably didn't have as great of years as they will this year," he said. "Coming back, knowing what to expect, what ballparks look like and how certain teams play. The experience factor is going to help in their success."



NORTHWEST INFILDER STEVIE Bush sets to throw the ball to first base to make a double play during a conference game against Emporia State last season. Bush returns to a squad featuring a mix of established veterans and newcomers. That mix has led the Bearcats to a 7-2 start, their best mark since 1989.

Northwest is No. 3 in the NCWBA region poll, behind MIAA top finishers Central Missouri and Emporia State.

While this start is the best in nearly two decades, it could evaporate quickly if the team looks ahead to those teams, Loe said.

"If we concentrate on Central right now and ignore (other series), we're going to be sitting right at about .500 baseball," he said. "You don't have to swing any harder against those teams (Central or Emporia). You don't have to throw better pitches. We just have to go out and play our game whether it's the good teams or the lower teams in the conference."

Loe preaches not to look ahead constantly, Kurtz said.

"We've been talking a lot about, even though you're on a path and you have a goal, you've got to stay focused on what's in front of you," Kurtz said. "I think that's really helped us a lot."

Despite maintaining focus on the present, Northwest's goal is to appear in the regional tournament, something it has only done once this decade. After five years of finishing the season in the conference tournament, Loe admits it will be a letdown if this team cannot get to the next level.

"That has always been our goal as long as I've been coaching the program," he said. "I think, at this point, it would be a disappointment not making that regional. As long as we keep playing well, we have an opportunity to do that, and I'm sure our guys will prepare themselves in order to get us there."



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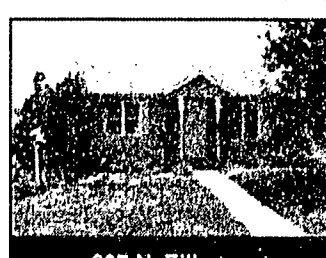
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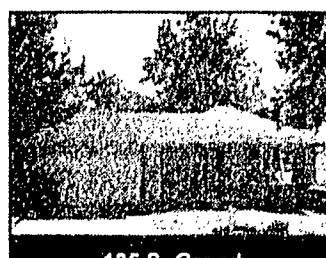
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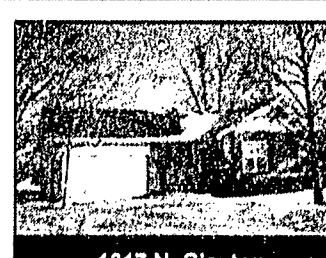
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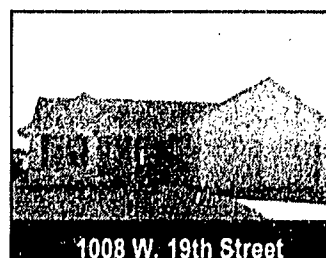
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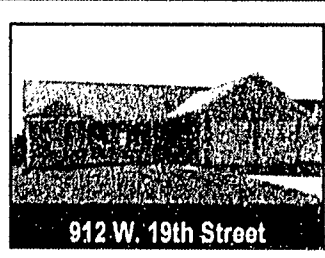
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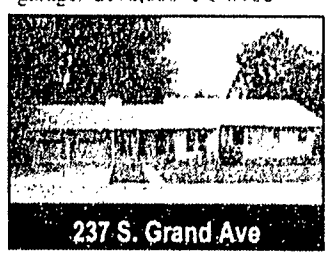
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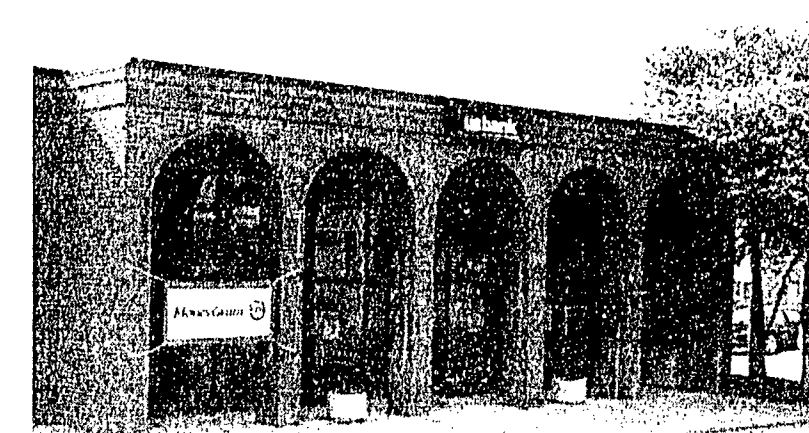
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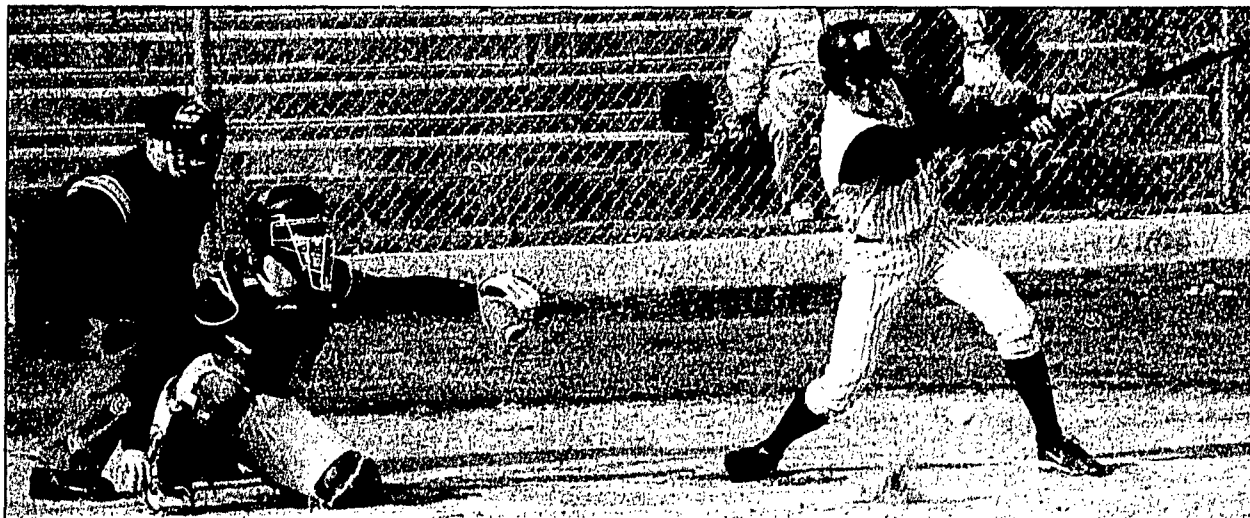






missourian file photo

MARYVILLE SPOOFHOUND, KLAY Talmadge, hits the ball off of the plate last spring against the Cameron Dragons. The 'Hounds first home game is at 4:30 p.m., March 24.



## Seniors lead way on diamond

By Christopher Woodland  
Missourian Reporter

The Maryville baseball team returns several seniors with an increased focus on defense as it prepares for their 2008 season opener.

Coach Thom Alvarez stresses defense in his second season as the Spoofhounds' coach. He hopes that improvement in that area will lead to them winning more close games, something they struggled with last year. The Spoofhounds lost five games in 2007 by a total of six runs on their way to a disappointing 5-11 record.

"You can't do much in a game when the other team keeps hitting," Alvarez said.

One thing he saw last year that he wants to continue is cutting down on errors. They

have decreased their errors in each of the last two seasons.

Alvarez feels that by improving on the smaller aspects of the game, it will lead to winning more games.

For now, though, the team's progress remains hampered by the cold weather as they must practice in the gym.

The team feels that getting outside will further their progress.

"Outside we have a lot more room to run and catch fly-balls, and the outfielders have to deal with real hops and bounces off the dirt," Klay Talmadge said.

Alvarez expects a strong senior class led by last year's team MVP Talmadge to dominate the lineup. Several younger players are expected to have significant contributions as well.

"It's a neat mix," Alvarez said. "We have several returning from last year. We'll probably start five or six seniors and maybe a sophomore and junior or two. We have a few freshmen that could step in and help us by the end of the year too."

The 'Hounds get their first test of the year at 4:30 p.m., Monday, March 17, against Nebraska City.

"They are a real strong team," Alvarez said. "They are always well coached and always hit the ball well."

In addition to their season opener, one game that sticks out above the others on the schedule is the May 2 game against Lawson in a minor league ballpark.

The game takes place at 6,537-seat Community America Ball Park, home of the Kansas City T-Bones.

### MHS baseball schedule

March 17 4:30 p.m. JV/V at Nebraska City  
March 18 4:30 p.m. JV/V at Savannah  
March 24 4:30 p.m. JV/V Benton  
March 27 4:30 p.m. JV/Varsity Lafayette  
March 31 5:30 p.m. JV/V at Lee's Summit  
April 3 4:30 p.m. JV/V at Cameron  
April 4 4:30 p.m. JV/V LeBlond  
April 7 4:30 p.m. JV/V at East Buchanan  
April 8 4:30 p.m. JV/V Chillicothe  
April 10 4:30 p.m. JV/V Savannah  
April 14 JV/V at Pony Express Tournament  
April 21 4:30 p.m. JV/V at Benton  
April 22 4:30 p.m. JV/V at LeBlond  
April 29 4:30 p.m. JV/V at Chillicothe  
May 1 4:30 p.m. JV/VSmithville  
May 2 4:00 p.m. JV/V Lawson  
May 6 4:30 p.m. JV/Varsity Platte County

Home games in bold

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